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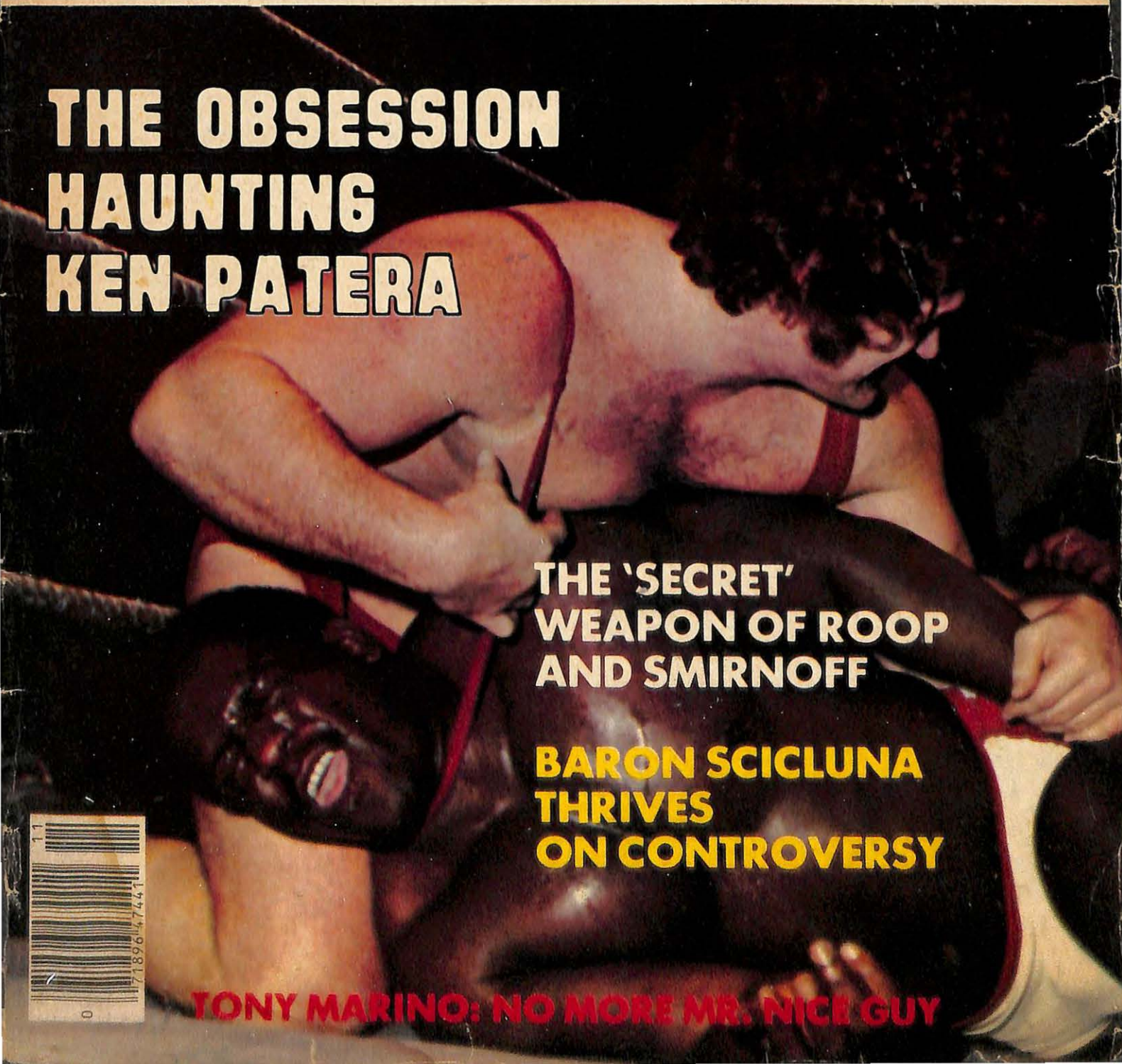

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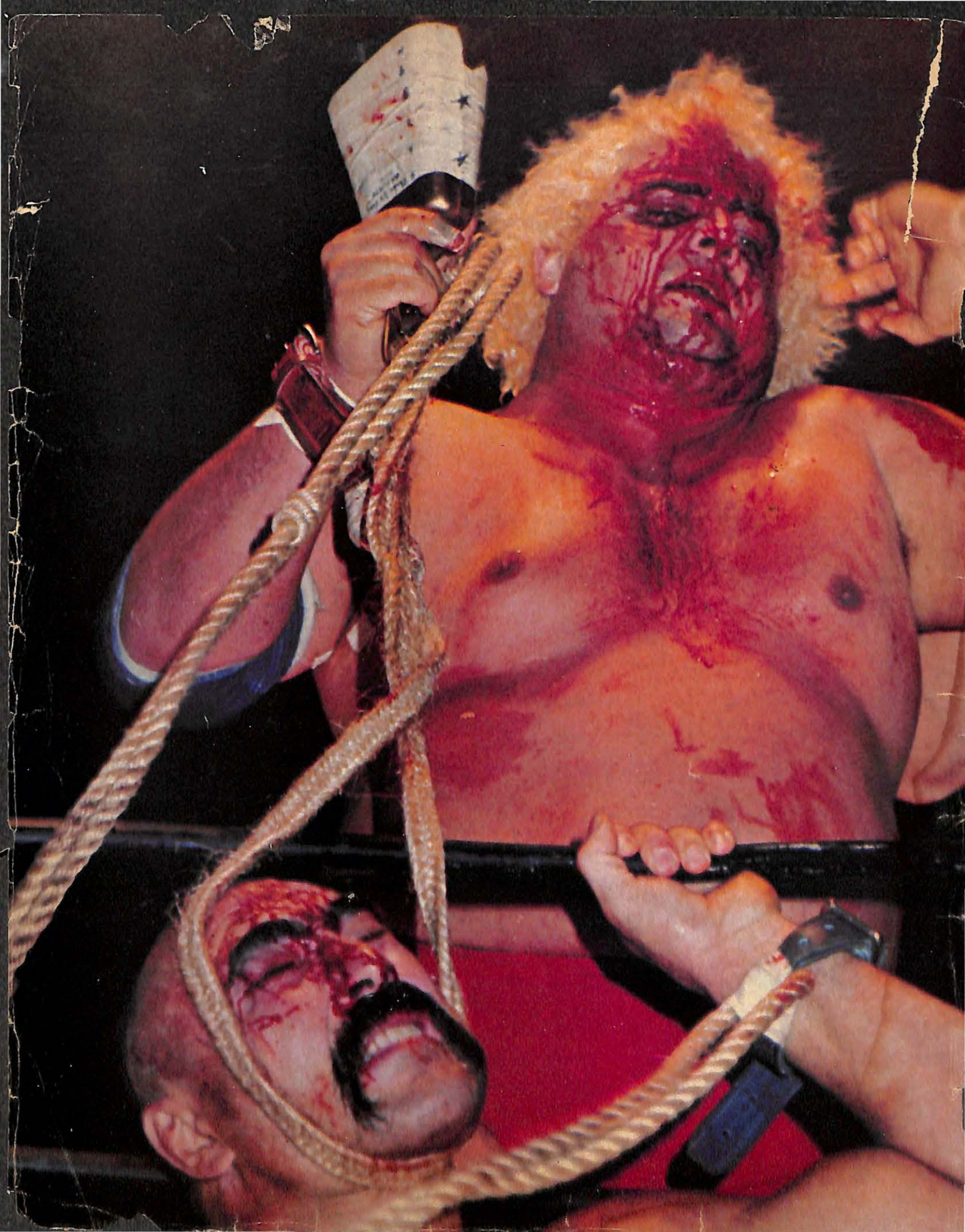

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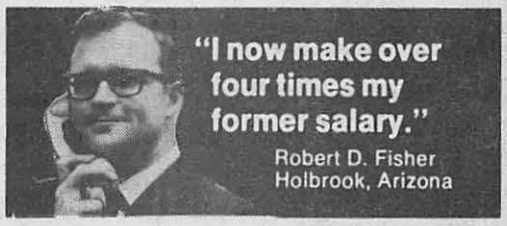

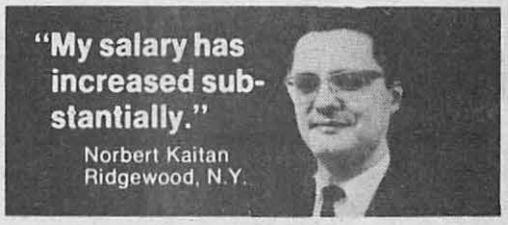

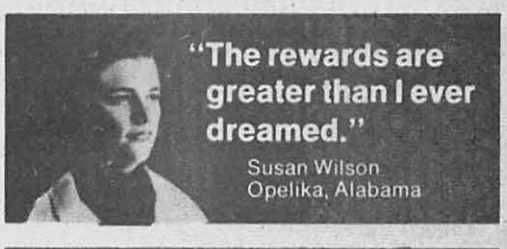

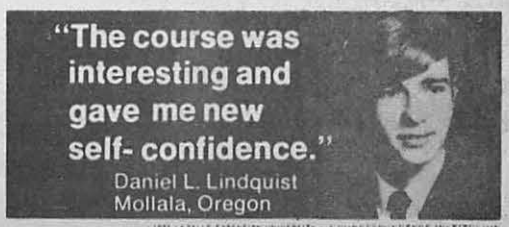

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THE BIG BOOK OF WRESTLING

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PUBLISHED BY FAX PUBLISHING INC.

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THE OBSESSION THAT HAUNTS KEN PATERA

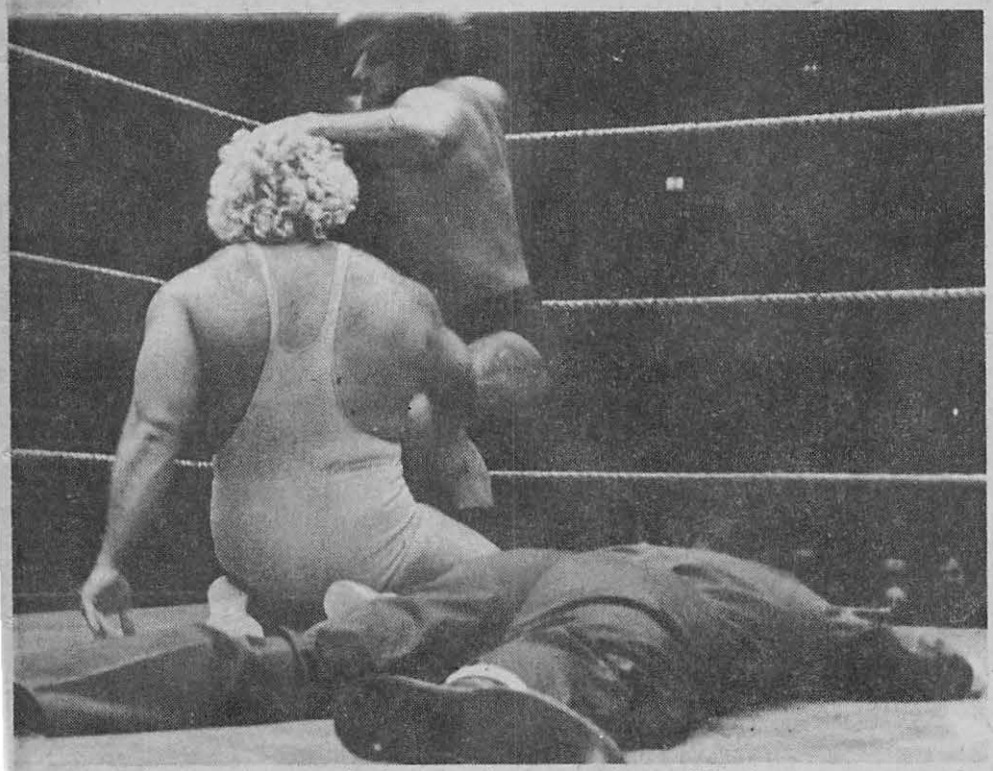
By Frank Amato

Referee Dick Kroll keeps a close watch on the action as Bruno Sammartino puts the boots to Ken Patera.

For three long years the contenders have ventured into World Wide Wrestling Federation territory seeking the elusive prize of the world heavyweight championship held by Bruno Sammartino. From the barren land of Siberia came Nikolai Volkoff. From Japan came Shozo Kobayashi. From Germany came Waldo Von Erich. From Canada came Louis Cyr and The Wolfman. From Greece came Spiros Arion. From Russia came Ivan Koloff.

From the good old United States of America came Cowboy Bob Duncum, John Tolos, Ernie Ladd, Superstar Billy Graham, Killer Kowalski, Stan Hansen, Stan Stasiak, Larry Hennig, George Steele, Blackjack Mulligan, Butcher Vachon, Blackjack Lanza, Don Leo Jonathan, Jimmy and Johnny Valiant, Bugsy McGraw and The Executioners. They came, saw, they conquered the opposition. Yet they all became a statistic. They all failed to win the big prize.

Then came yet another top contender from Oregon. A man who thrilled millions with his feats of strength in the Pan-American Games from 1968 to 1972. He competed in the 1972 Olympics in Munich, Germany, and became the strongest man in America. Now after four years in the sport of professional wrestling Ken Patera came seeking immortality.



Referee Kroll is stretched out on the canvas after walking into an errant punch from Bruno Sammartino while Bruno hammers away at Ken Patera in the background.

Patera came into the WWWF with top credentials. Everyone had heard of Ken Patera. They knew he was a pro wrestler who had gained a fine reputation as a scientific wrestler. Now the WWWF fans were witnessing a different Patera. They were seeing a Patera who broke all the rules, they were seeing Patera under the management of Captain Lou Albano.

Captain Lou Albano was the man responsible for turning Ken Patera into a rulebreaker. In fact he beams about it.

"I first saw Ken Patera some three years ago in Minnesota bogged down listening to Verne Gagne. It was Gagne who signed Patera straight from the Olympics and trained him for the ring. The super strength of this man was earth-shattering. There was nothing this man couldn't do.

"We had a secret meeting and I tried to talk him into signing with me. He refused because he felt he owed Gagne. I told Patera that Gagne who was the American Wrestling Alliance champion would never give him a title shot. Patera insisted Gagne would. I told Patera he was wrong and would look him up again."

Captain Lou Albano puffing on his ever present cigar continued, "Well I was right. Patera never did get that chance for the title. In disgust Ken Patera was wrestling down south when I went to see him. This time Patera listened eagerly. He signed a contract and in secret training sessions I taught Patera the rougher side of wrestling.

"I taught him how to win the big bouts. I left Ken Patera down south to get the necessary experience. He did excellent as he beat Killer Karl Kox for the brass knuckles championship. It was then I knew Ken Patera was ready for Bruno Sammartino."

Patera had his own personal dislike for Bruno Sammartino even before he ever thought of becoming a wrestler. Ken remembers, "It was soon after the Olympics in Munich. I was being asked by promoters from all over on becoming a wrestler. I couldn't make up my mind.

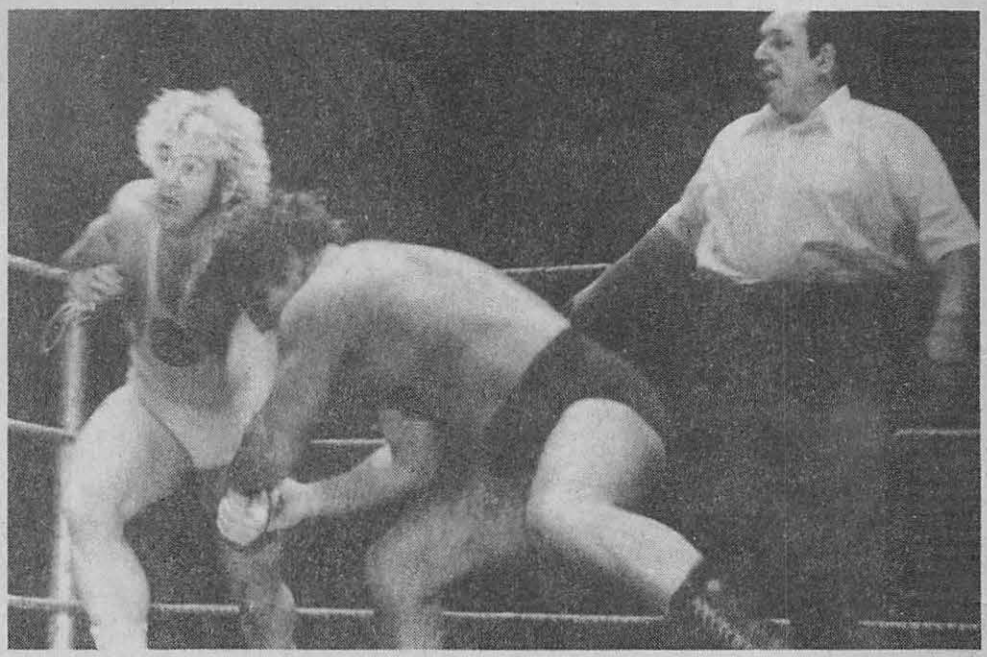
"Then one day in a restaurant was Bruno Sammartino. We were introduced. I was very cordial. In fact, I was awed by this living legend in wrestling. But this living legend acted very cold towards me. Like I was a nobody. I swore I would meet him someday and take that belt from him. It was then I signed with Verne Gagne. I would make Bruno Sammartino regret he ever heard of me."

Bruno Sammartino denies this ever happened between Ken Patera and himself. "I did meet Ken Patera and was impressed with his performance in the Olympics. After all, I did weightlifting myself and almost went to the Olympics back in 1956. But I never turned my back on Patera. Why he claims this is obvious."

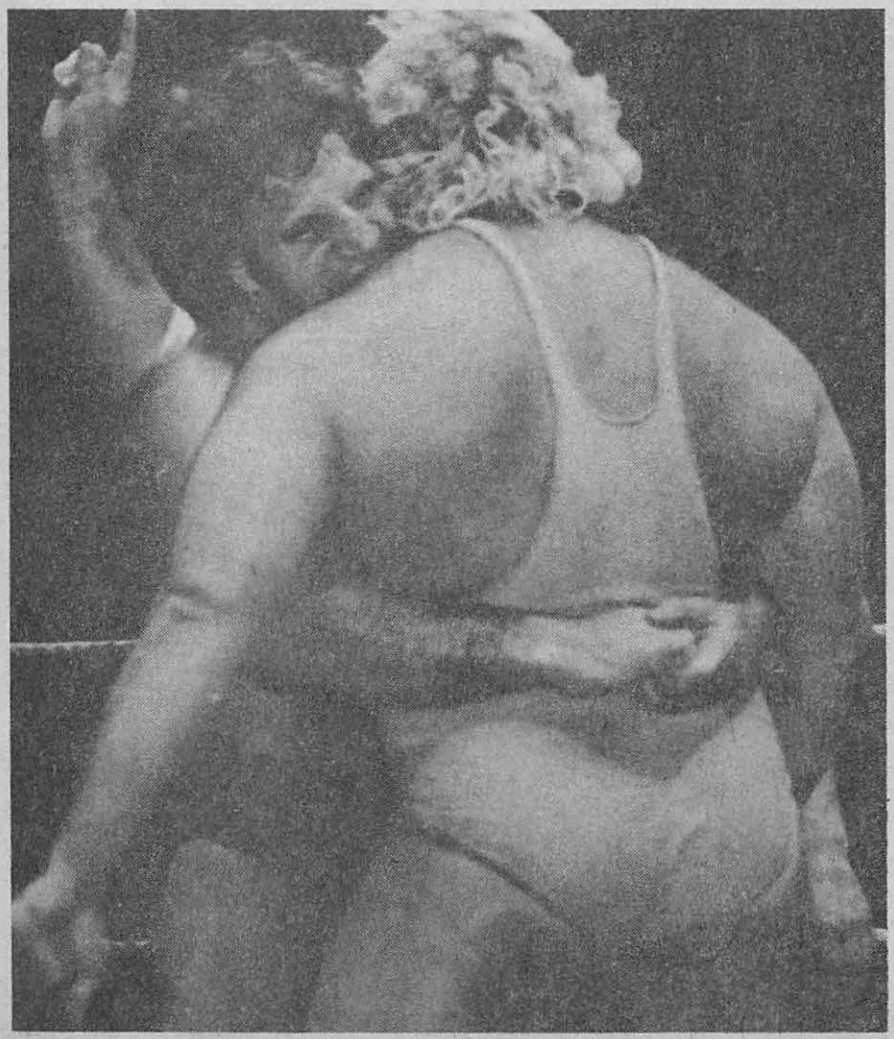
Captain Lou Albano expresses his opinion on why Ken Patera will win the WWWF title, "Ken Patera has no equal in strength. Many have tried to beat him in tests of strength such as Superstar Billy Graham, Ivan Koloff and Ivan Putski but they came a poor second.

"None can match Ken Patera in strength — even Bruno Sammartino who's considered the strongest wrestler there is. But that is passé because Ken Patera has proven his superior skills in strength against the very best. Now he will take Sammartino's belt with his strength. He has his bearhug and swinging neckbreaker, either hold will bring the downfall of Sammartino."

Patera says, "I'm the strongest man in wrestling not Bruno Sammartino. My record speaks for itself. Bruno is billed as being the strongest in wrestling but that was over a decade ago. This is the 1970s, the time of Ken Patera. Let Sammartino prove he's stronger than me in that ring. I dare you Sammartino. Come on and show me."



Special guest referee Gorilla Monsoon looks on as Bruno Sammartino is about to send Ken Patera on a free trip across the ring.



Bruno Sammartino has Ken Patera in a near state of submission as he wraps the mat strongman in his potent bear hug.

Sammartino states, "I don't know what Ken Patera is trying to prove. I've seen films of his feats of strength. Sure he is strong. Maybe even stronger than me, but holding back trucks and lifting all those weights don't make you become wrestling champion. You need wrestling skills. Let him prove himself in the ring first, then if he becomes the top contender I'll be more than willing to give him his title chance. Then all the fans will see who is stronger and the better wrestler. I haven't kept this title by wrestling inferior competition. I have beaten the best thrown against me for years. Let Patera prove his worth where it counts, in the ring of battle."

Patera was far from ruffled by Bruno's opinion on proving how good he was. Match after match Ken defeated all thrown his way. Weeks followed and Patera more than won his matches with ease, he annihilated his opponents. His bearhug brought about many victories. Ken's swinging neckbreaker also brought on victories, leaving some injured wrestlers in his wake.

The most notable victims were Johnny Rivera and Kevin Sullivan who fell before this swinging neckbreaker. Both these wrestlers found themselves wearing surgical neckbraces from this hold and out of active wrestling for two months.

Sullivan expressed his feelings about Patera's swinging neckbreaker, "I

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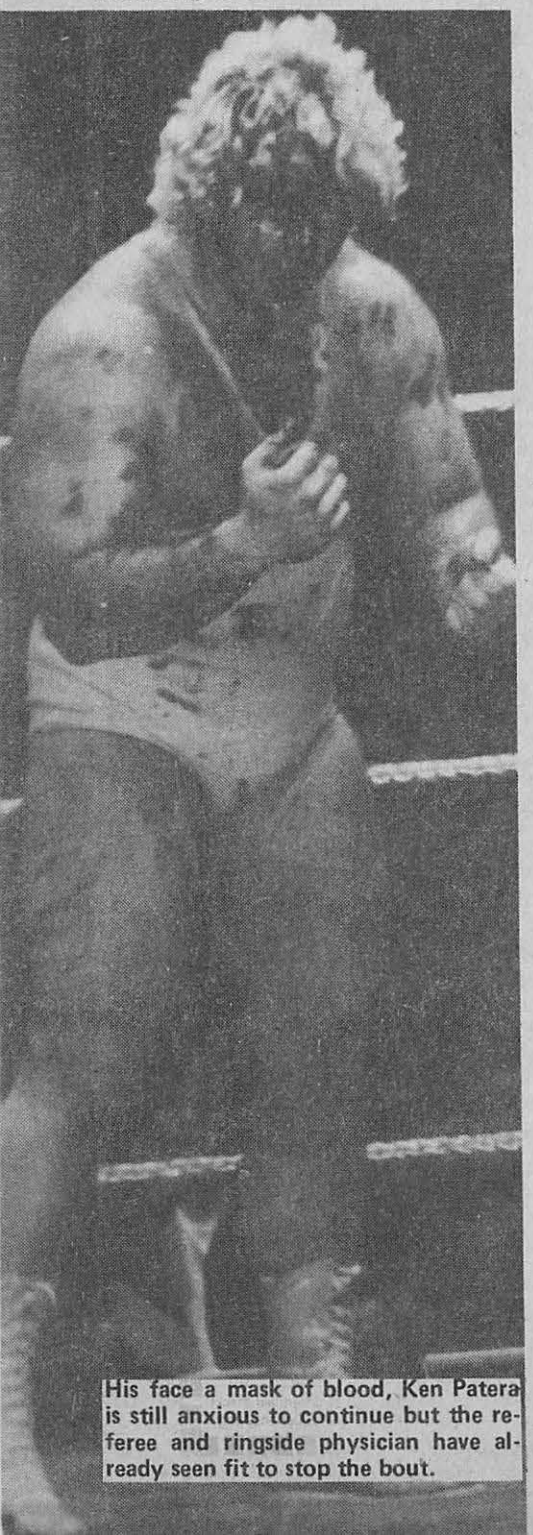
fear for wrestlers the world over. Sooner or later they will meet Patera. They will be forced to think about this hold. I'm lucky in the sense I will be able to wrestle again. But my doctors feared the worst in the beginning. I could have been confined to a wheelchair for the rest of my life. I know Patera will wrestle Bruno in the near future. Knowing about Bruno's injured neck I fear for his well-being. I don't think there is any wrestler around who can withstand this hold."

A former Olympic weightlifter, Ken Patera calls himself the strongest wrestler in the grappling game, a claim that many of his opponents have tried to disprove but have failed.



His face a mask of blood, Ken Patera is still anxious to continue but the referee and ringside physician have already seen fit to stop the bout.

Why has Ken Patera unleashed this terrible hold with such force?

Says Patera, "I'll admit I tried to injure my opponents with this hold but not to cost them their mat careers. Hey, let's face facts. My strength is unsurpassed. Perhaps some wrestlers don't have big strong necks. The problem is not mine, it is theirs. Let them quit wrestling if they can't take it. This sport is for men, not boys or the yellow bellies. I don't complain about holds used by other wrestlers. I know I can withstand anything thrown my way."

Will Patera try and injure Sammartino with this devastating hold?

Says Patera, "You can bet your last dollar on it. I've read all about Bruno's broken neck. I can't wait to give Bruno the deluxe model of my swinging neckbreaker. When I clamp this hold on that injured neck I will squeeze until I hear every muscle and vertebrae crack. Not only will I send Bruno to the hospital but I will force his permanent retirement."

The time finally came for the first match between Bruno Sammartino and Ken Patera at Madison Square Garden. The 6-foot, 280-pound Patera was very confident from the opening bell. The first few minutes was a concentration of brute strength with neither wrestler proving stronger than the other. Patera seemed most shocked he couldn't come out on top. Then Patera started the rough tactics.

The bout became a pier six brawl and both wrestlers battered each other without mercy. The battle seesawed from one to the other. Then Bruno knocked Patera into the press row seats. Bruno followed Patera outside the ring and battered Patera. Then Bruno tried to climb into the ring but Patera swung a metal chair and caught Bruno in the head. Patera rolled into the ring beating the 20 count from the referee. Bruno, stunned from the wielded chair, failed to beat the count. Ken Patera had gained a victory but the title was still with Bruno. Only by pin or submission can the WWWF title change hands.

The second match, Texas Death style, saw a continuation of the first hard-fought contest. No scientific holds were seen. This was strictly a punch, kick, choking and any other rough tactic battle. Patera and Sammartino battered each other with their superstrength. A lesser wrestler this night would have fallen much sooner against either wrestler. Patera tried his swinging neckbreaker but Bruno escaped before the hold could be properly applied. Patera shook his head in wonderment. The no-holds-barred match continued and both wrestlers were feeling the effects of punishment.

The wrestlers were trading punches along the ropes punch for punch and Patera's legs grew wobbly. Referee Dick Kroll tried to break up the warring gladiators as Bruno sent a roundhouse right at Patera who ducked.

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Unfortunately Kroll walked right into the punch and was knocked cold!

Meanwhile Bruno continued his attack battering Patera at will. Bruno looked a sure winner but the match was without a referee. Patera was unable to defend himself from Bruno's vicious attack. Then in ran Larry Zbyzsko, Tony Garea and Bruno's manager Arnold Skoaland to pull Bruno off Patera.

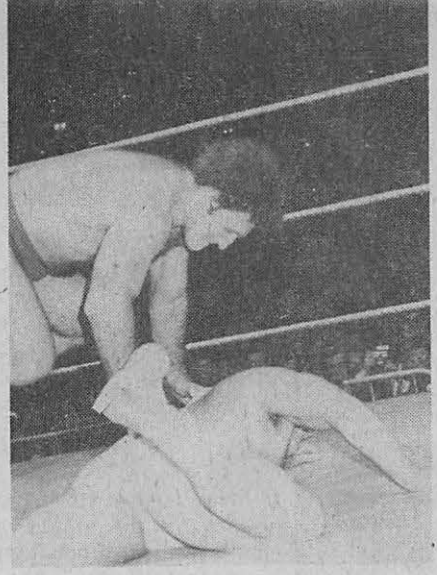
While Patera was escorted back to the dressing room on very unsteady legs, Bruno, Zbyzsko, Garea and Skoaland tried to revive Kroll. When Kroll got back on his feet he ruled the bout no contest. Now a third match was signed with Gorilla Monsoon as the guest referee.

Ken Patera had this to say about that match, "I had Bruno beaten and the fans at Madison Square Garden saw this. Then Sammartino hit the referee on purpose hoping to get disqualified. When I saw the referee get clobbered I stopped fighting but Sammartino still kept on.

"This was my mistake. It made it seem Bruno was winning. On the contrary, I'm a sportsman but Bruno showed what a coward he is by continuing fighting. Well this time there will be Gorilla Monsoon, a 400-pounder who won't get knocked out from one punch. I've heard that Monsoon is a fair referee even though he is friends with Sammartino. I think I'll get a fair shake from Monsoon but if I see that Monsoon favors Sammartino I'll belt him myself."

The third match turned out to be the most exciting of the three. Like the previous two matches this was another war. Both Patera and Sammartino were relentless in their attacks. It was an even battle with both wrestlers taking as much as giving. Gorilla Monsoon seemed to do a good job of not favoring either wrestler. In fact Monsoon had heated words with both grapplers.

The match grew with intensity. Both wrestlers were feeling the effects of the heated battering from each other. Then a series of hard punches to Patera's face drew blood. Patera's legs became unsteady. Bruno continued his attack sending Patera reeling around the ring. The blood which started from Patera's face when he fell outside the ring, earlier, now was flowing freely, covering his face.



The one chink in Sammartino's armor may be his neck as the World Wide Wrestling Federation champion has suffered serious neck injuries in the past. Here, Patera tests Sammartino's ability to absorb punishment to the neck.

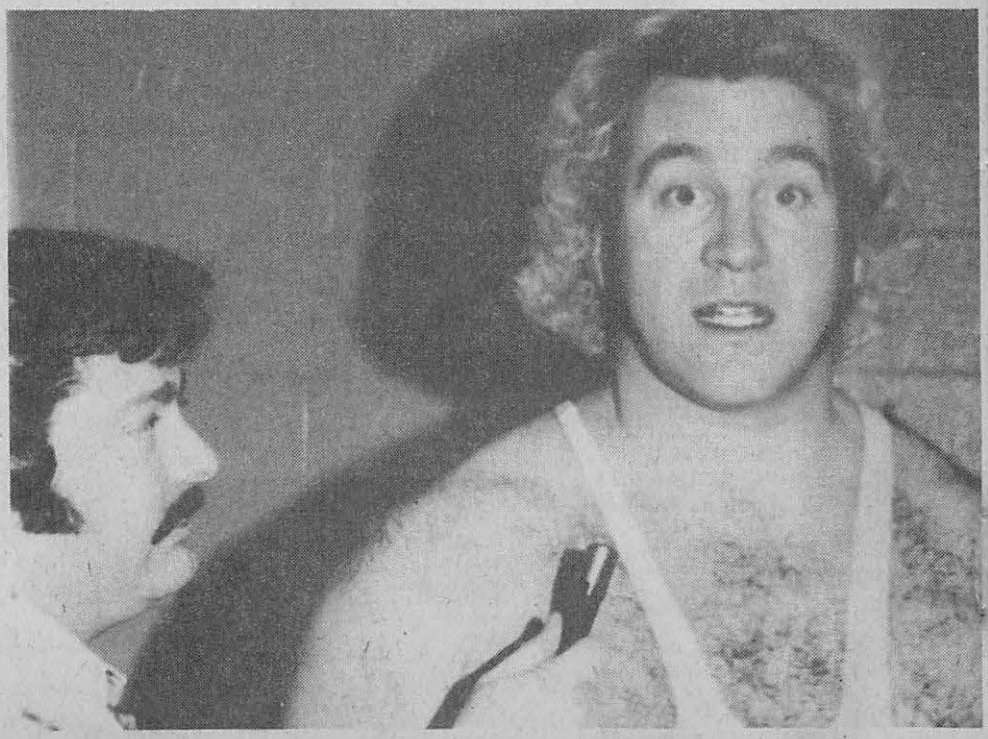
Monsoon checked the cut but allowed the match to continue. Patera caught punch after punch, his great physique quivering with each blow. Still Patera was swinging back but wildly, catching nothing but empty air. Now seeing a one-sided match and noticing Patera seemingly out on his feet, Monsoon stepped in and stopped the contest, when the doctor at ringside signalled to stop the action.

The fans were cheering wildly as Bruno was declared the winner. Patera was crestfallen knowing his title hopes were gone for the present. Patera pleaded with Monsoon to let the match continue but the decision stood. Patera left the ring, bloody, his head hung in dejection.

Sammartino was available for a quick interview and said, "I think I beat Patera fair and square. Monsoon played no favorites and was right in stopping the match when he did. I'm sure I could have pinned Patera if the match had gone on. This Patera is very game. I must admit he is probably the strongest wrestler I have faced. I give him that much. I think I proved I'm the better wrestler now."

Patera managed to sit still long enough to say, "The match should have been allowed to continue. Sure I was bloody but I was still throwing punches. Sammartino was hurting as much as myself. Bruno is a tough cookie but he didn't prove he's better than myself. Nor is he stronger. He proved he was luckier only.

"Sammartino, I'm not finished with you yet. There will be other matches between us. I promised myself and Captain Albano I will take your belt. I won't rest until I do. This is only round three. The next round is coming up again. Real soon."



Author Frank Amato interviews Ken Patera in preparing this article for Big Book of Wrestling.

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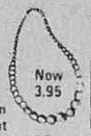

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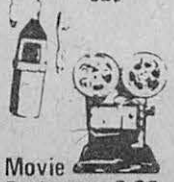

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By Arturo LeConte

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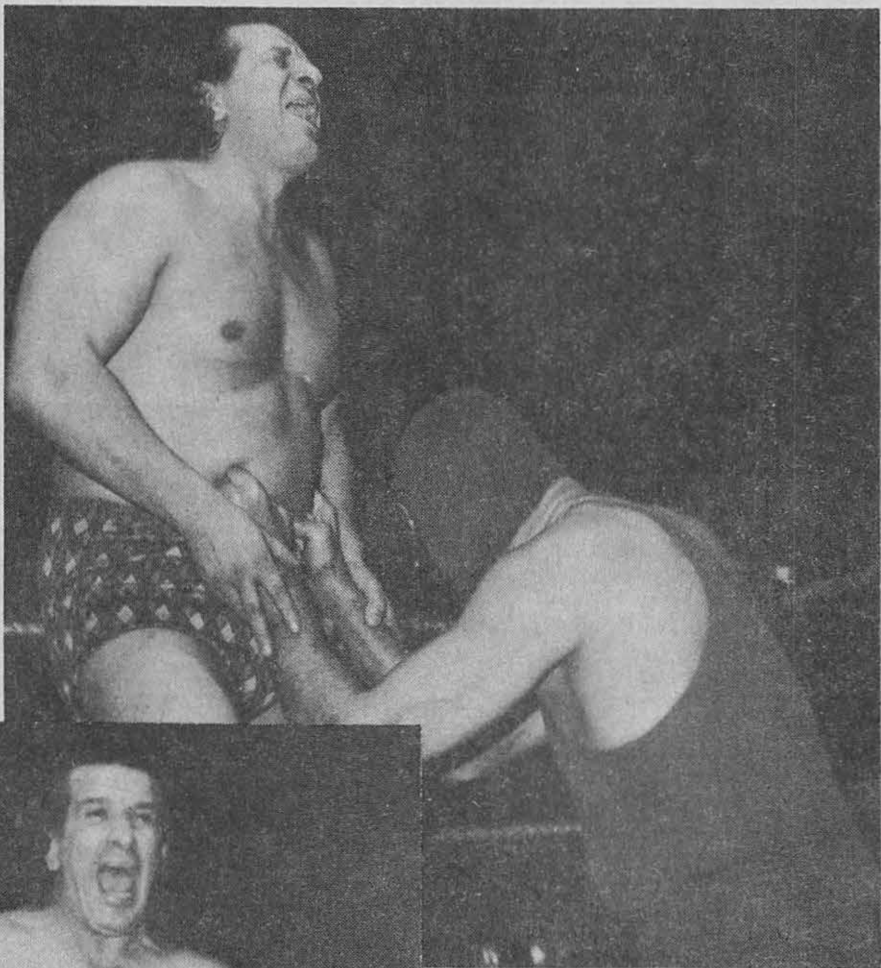

The agony of the stomach claw is evident in these two photos as The Executioner goes to work on Chief Jay Strongbow (left) finally forcing Strongbow to let out a howl as he fights back the pain to keep from submitting.

Doug Gilbert pays for his transgressions by getting hung up on the ropes courtesy of a toss by S.D. Jones.

Chief Jay Strongbow is on the ropes as the Executioner is up to his usual underhanded tactics by planting his knee on Strongbow's throat.

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I'm going to teach you seven little secrets.

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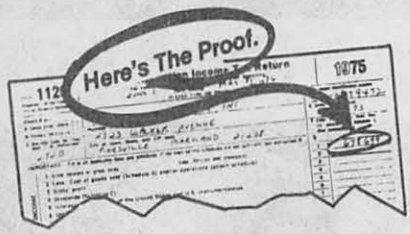

Here's the proof: a photostat of Mike Warren's IRS return for Calendar 1975.

Nobody—but I mean NOBODY—can duplicate my record for picking winners over the past four years.

Which may sound like bragging.

But the day you walk away from a parimutuel window with winnings of $10, $20 and even $50 on a modest $2 wager—as a result of using my system—you'll think I'm the best friend you ever had. And as your winnings pile up—and you really start to turn your life around . . . and as you realize *you have now become a consistent winner at the track*—you're going to start blowing me long distance kisses or sending me love notes like the ones I get every day:

Dear Mr. Warren:
You DID IT! You solved the problem I've been working on for years! I have never run across so accurate or refined a system of playing the horses in all my life. I have thrown away all the charts, plastic slides, and "professional systems" in my library. I just can't get over how your simple system put me onto winner after winner! TEN BUCKS??!!! Hell, you should charge three hundred times that for what you're disclosing!
Sincerely,
D.R.S., San Diego, CA 92117

Dear Mike,
. . . What a payoff. $15.20 for ELSIE to win and $246.80 for the exacta—$2,620 for a $20 bet. Mike, thank you. You are free to use this letter and I will have it notarized.
Sincerely,
BOB COOKE, 3 West 51 St. New York, N.Y. 10019

Sworn to me this
4th day of February 1976
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Dear Mike,
Your method is fool proof. I have won 70% of the races I have received from you since Saturday.
Again, thank you.
Randall W., Brooklyn, N.Y.

Convinced? Okay, but already I can hear you asking: "WHY IS THIS GUY GIVING IT AWAY?"

The answer is twofold and very simple.

One, I'll make a bundle on the book I'm selling you.

Two, very few bettors have the character to stick to any system, let alone my "SYSTEM OF THE CENTURY".

So in a way, I'm challenging you as a bettor and as a man. Because if you think of it, there isn't a reason in the world why a serious bettor shouldn't be a consistent winner—maybe not to the tune of 500,000 a year—but still, he ought to be in the black. Even the occasional horseplayer shouldn't have to take a drubbing every time he visits the track.

Yet most bettors are consistent losers.

Why? You'd better ask the shrinks. They claim the habitual loser secretly wants to lose. You figure it out.

All I know is, they lose and lose and lose and they never learn. It's a pity, but it has a paradoxical effect.

BECAUSE OF THE HABITUAL LOSERS, THE ODDS FAVOR THE MAN WITH A GOOD SYSTEM WHO STICKS TO IT.

In other words, it's the losers who feed the winners.

Tomorrow morning, when I get up, my biggest problem will be to figure out whether I should play golf, putter around with my Mercedes, take the wife to Acapulco, fly to Florida with my kids to see Disney World or even visit my in-laws.

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WHAT *IS* "THE SYSTEM OF THE CENTURY"?

I could almost squeeze it in on the rest of this page. It's so simple, if you've never placed a bet before or even been to a race track, you'll *consistently* find yourself on the boards, walking away from the parimutuel window with $10's, 20's and, yes, even $50's for your $2 wager.

The System consists of seven rules—seven rules you can read and memorize in just one hour at home. One of these rules—Rule 4—is so elementary that you can go to any race track with an infield turf (grass) course and start writing your own checks tomorrow as if you'd been a track pro for 20 years.

If you're a regular horseplayer, "The System of the Century" could put you on Easy Street as a permanent resident. Let me give you a clue: how many times have you spent hours poring over a single race, doping out every detail, figuring every angle . . . only to find that the horse you picked to begin with . . . and decided against for some reason even *you* can't remember—romped home an easy winner? YOU ALMOST HAD IT, BUT YOU LOST IT. YOU SCRAPPED ONE RULE IN FAVOR OF ANOTHER. YOU HAD NO *SYSTEM*. YOU HAD NO *PRIORITIES*.

A lifetime at the track—under the wing of my father, who was a handicapper before me—listening to trainers, owners, jockeys, high rollers and handicappers—asking questions, taking notes, keeping records of wins and losses—and then putting it all together—*this was how I learned what those priorities are.*

And they're incorporated into "The System of the Century".

And now it's all yours.

$10 MAY BE ALL YOU NEED TO GET STARTED.

Here's how failsafe my system is . . . *provided you follow my seven little rules strictly and without exception.* Then you'll start cashing in on those big parimutuel tickets most people just dream about.

Now, I recognize that the world is full of skeptics—even the wise get fooled once in a while. So I make this proposition to you:

SEND ME $10.00. I WON'T CASH YOUR CHECK FOR 30 DAYS.

That $10.00 is payment in full for "The System of the Century".

Use the System at your local race track for 30 days, making sure to follow my rules as outlined therein. Bet as much as you want—and keep what you take in with my blessings! If my method fails to work in exactly the manner I've described, *you have risked nothing*—because I'll send your original check back to you *uncashed*. In fact, *date your check one month ahead*—that way nobody can touch your ten bucks while you prove for yourself whether my System is everything I say it is.

Could anything be fairer?

I've proved my System works—it's making *millions* for a handful of smart bettors.

And here I am offering it to you with a 30 day free trial money back guarantee.

You're a smart bettor. How can you walk away from odds like that?

Sworn Statement . . .

This is to certify that all statements made in this ad are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. MIKE WARREN is a professional handicapper of Thoroughbred horses, and his gross income for the last twelve months was in excess of $500,000.00.

a Belous

Who is Mike Warren?

The man RACING FORUM calls "The Jack Anderson of American handicapping," and the son of a handicapper, Mike Warren gained early exposure to the world of horses and tracks, jockeys and trainers, losers and winners.

Today, as America's premier handicapper, Mike is well on his way to becoming a self made millionaire at 33—because he picks 'em with uncanny accuracy. And he does it with more than talent.

In an atmosphere crackling with excitement, Mike leads a highly specialized network of professionals, fine-tuned and coordinated to produce one single product: winners.

Mike and his team dispense this precious product to subscribers as conscientiously as a first-rate investigative reporter reveals and interprets news as quickly as it happens.

CLIP AND MAIL TODAY

CMG-9

Mike Warren
The Baltimore Bulletin, Inc.
Professional Building
Baltimore, MD 21208

Dear Mike,

I can't afford to pass up your offer. Please send me "The System of the Century" by return mail. I understand that if your method doesn't make big money for me as you have outlined, all I have to do is return it within 30 days and my uncashed check will be returned to me.

On that basis, here is my check for $10.00 *dated one month from now.* (If you're enclosing a money order that can't be dated ahead, you have the same money back guarantee.)

☐ For immediate shipment, first class, add 50c (in coin or stamps please.)

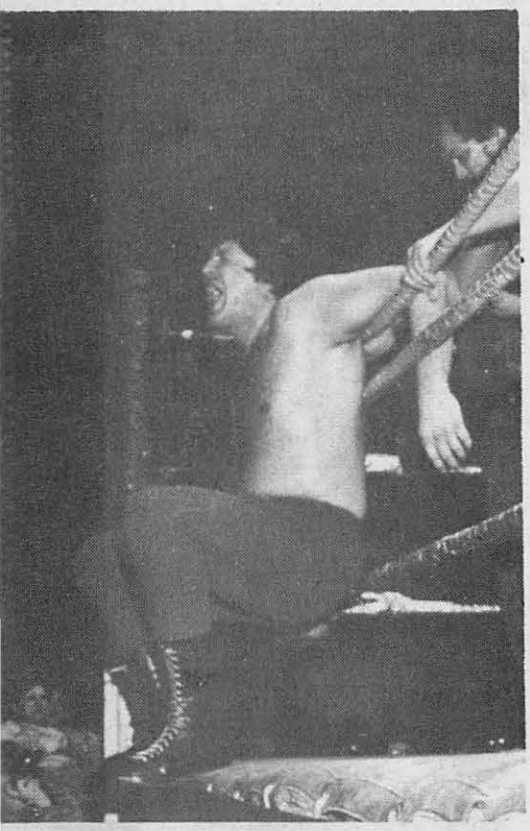
name_____

address_____

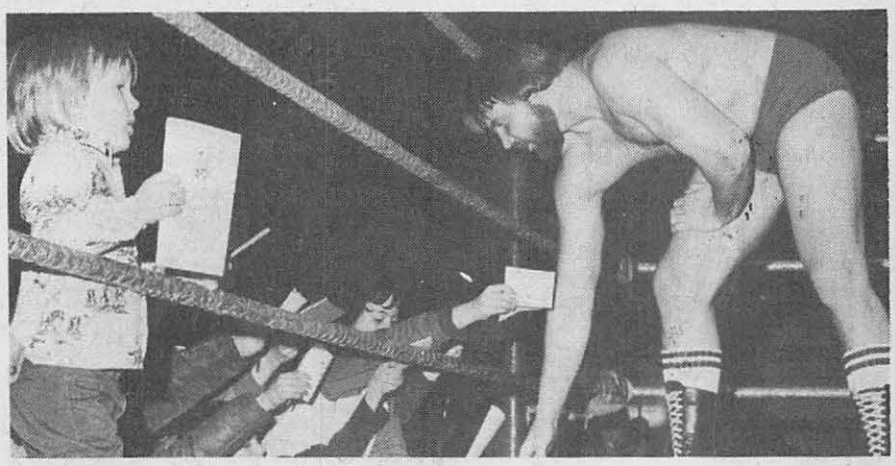
city_____ state_____ zip_____

Please make checks payable to "The Baltimore Bulletin".

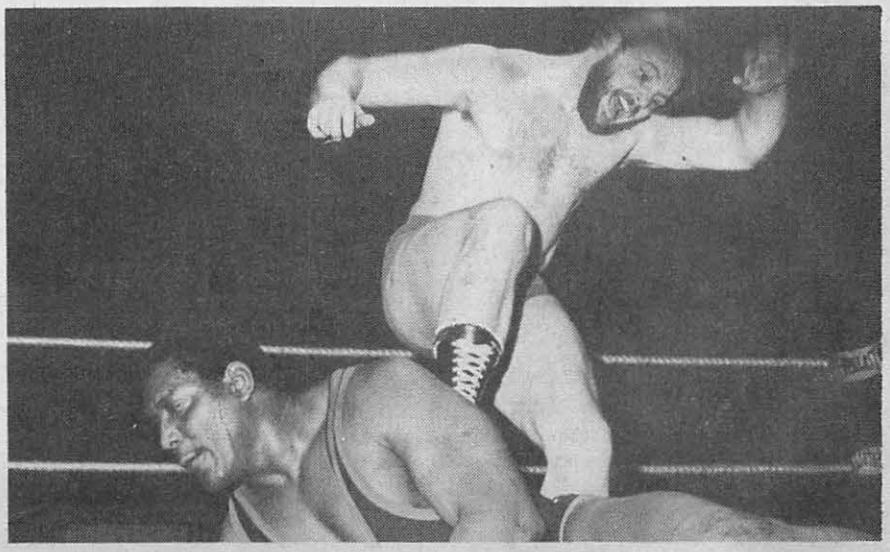
Chief Jay Strongbow has the upper hand here as he uses the sleeper hold to send the Executioner off to dreamland in chalking up another mat triumph.



Mark Tendler is really hung up on his job and it's not a pleasant experience as Rocky Tomayo is helping to make Mark's life miserable.

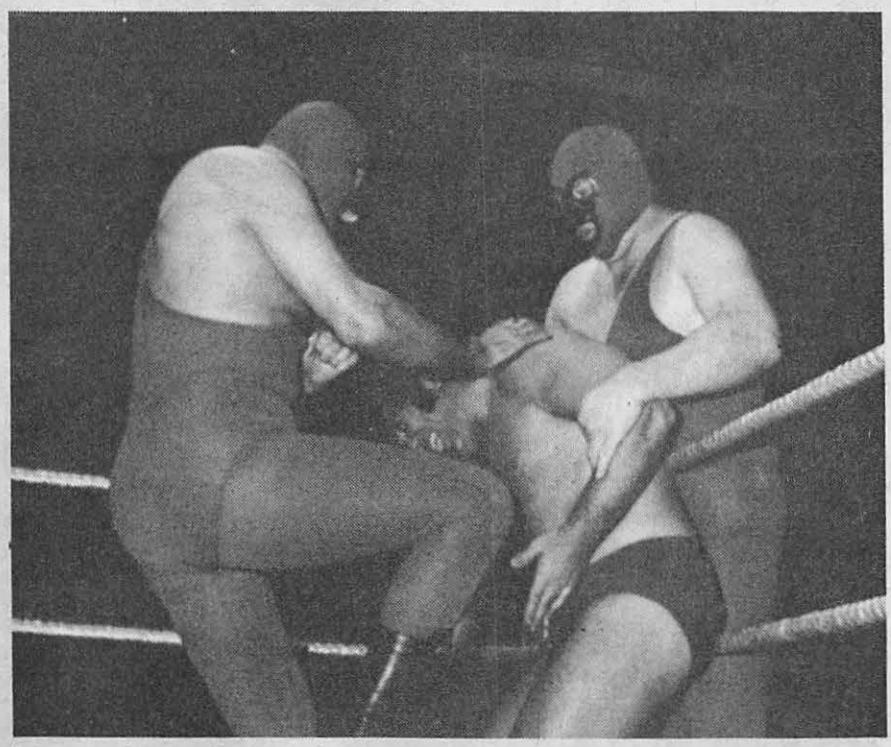


Ian Nelson is 'Mr. Nice Guy' before the match begins as he fills autograph requests by a group of youngsters before swinging into action against S.D. Jones.

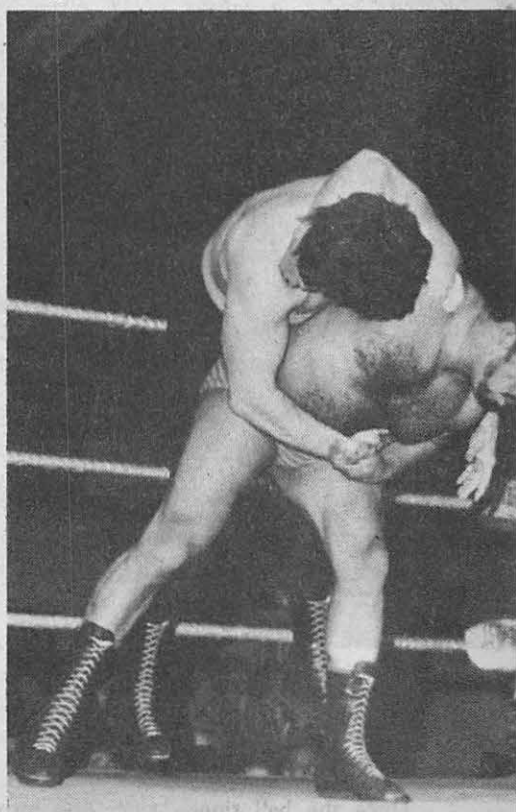


Once the bell rings, Ian Nelson puts his worst foot forward as he proceeds to stomp on S.D. Jones.

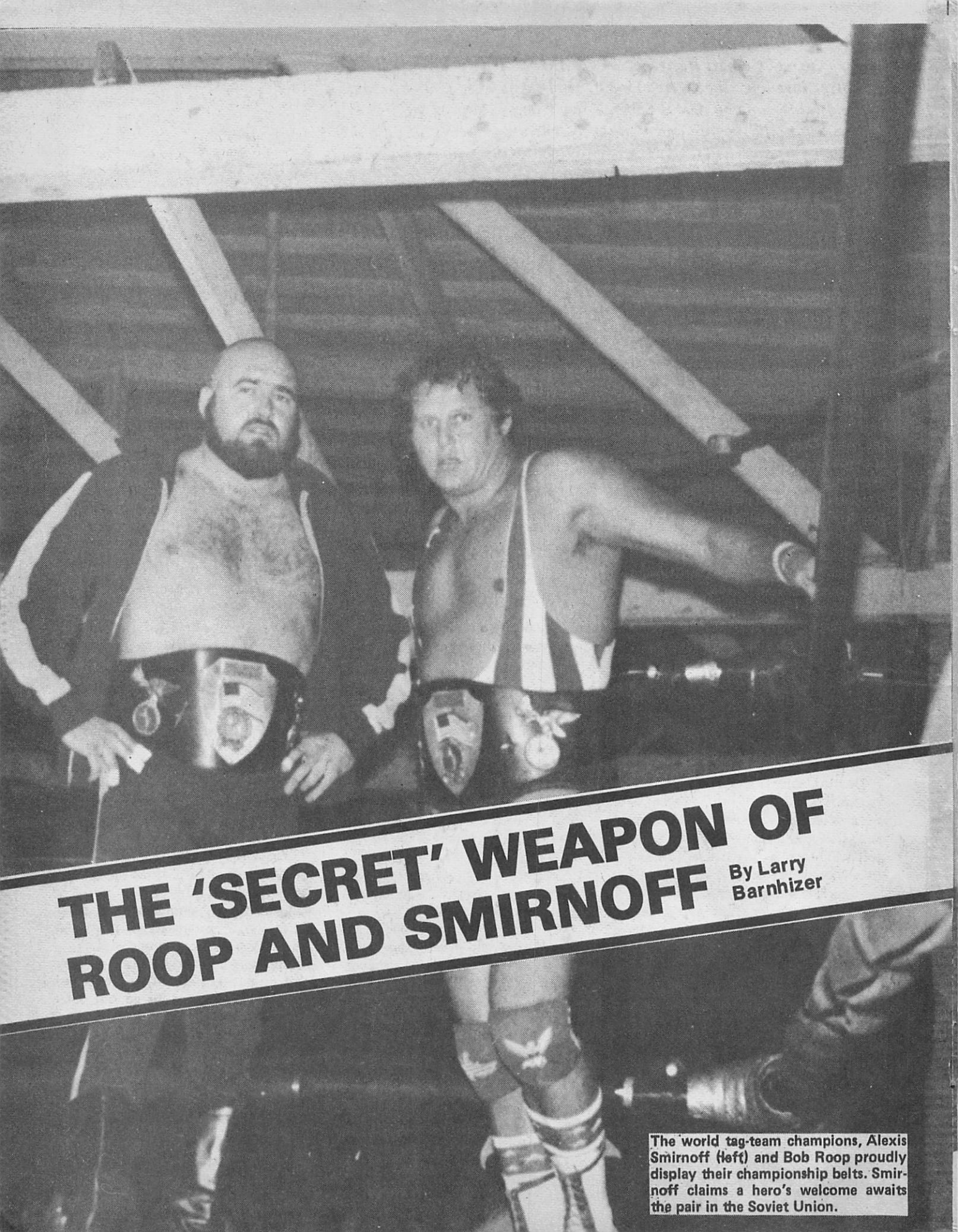
The referee makes a check and warns Ivan Putski that his hold on Bruiser Brody is bordering on a choke hold.



Everyone knows that two heads are better than one and the same applies in professional wrestling except that double-teaming, which the Executioners are practising on Billy White Wolf, is illegal.



Johnny Rodz uses a hip toss to free himself from a hold which had been applied by Mark Tendler.



THE 'SECRET' WEAPON OF ROOP AND SMIRNOFF

By Larry Barnhizer

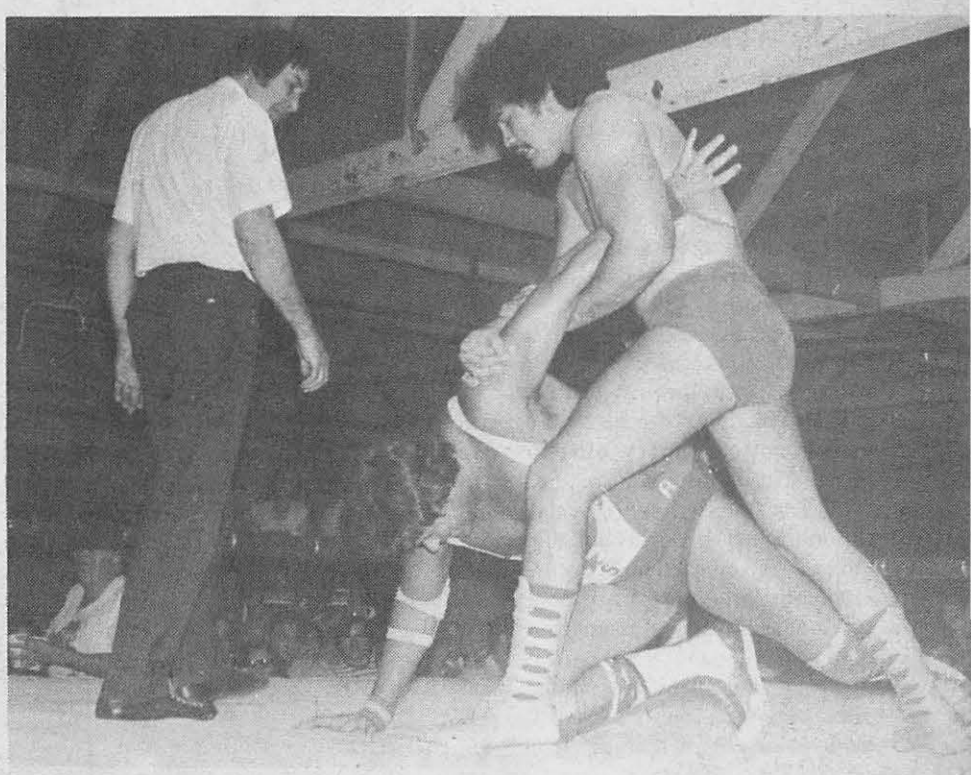
The world tag-team champions, Alexis Smirnoff (left) and Bob Roop proudly display their championship belts. Smirnoff claims a hero's welcome awaits the pair in the Soviet Union.

Will the real Gerhart Kaiser, please sit down?

Since invading the West Coast wrestling scene, the tag-team duo of Bob Roop and Alexis Smirnoff have taken the area by storm.

Not only did Roop and Smirnoff dethrone the popular duo of Pepper Gomez and Pat Patterson as world tag-team champions, but Smirnoff, wrestling solo, also ended Patterson's reign as United States champion.

Modesto promoter Johnny Miller shows off the world championship belt before Roop and Smirnoff did battle with Pepper Gomez and Alberto Madril.



The referee keeps a close watch on things as Alberto Madril has Bob Roop in a painful arm bar.

Despite their success, Roop and Smirnoff rank high on the list of most hated wrestlers. Some fans can accept the fact that Roop and Smirnoff will stoop to any means to chalk up a victory, after all that's part of the rock-'em, sock-'em world of wrestling. However, fans everywhere have been up in arms over the constant interference by their manager Kaiser whenever the going gets tough.

Kaiser's interference got so out of hand that the wrestling commissions got together and banned him from the arena whenever Roop and Smirnoff were wrestling.

The suspension of Kaiser didn't cause much concern as far as Roop and Smirnoff are concerned.

"Our manager Gerhart Kaiser has been banned from arenas all over the country, but I have contacted another manager, who, on occasion, will team up with Roop and I in six-man, tag-team matches. He wears a mask and we call him the Superstar Masked Man," explained Smirnoff.

However, the identity of this masked manager was no secret to two of Roop and Smirnoff's arch-rivals, Pepper Gomez and Alberto Madril.

"Mr. Miller, go ahead and ask Smirnoff who this new manager who also wrestles with them on occasion really is," said Madril following an accidental meeting of these four ring rivals in Modesto promoter Johnny Miller's office.

"I'm not saying. It's nobody's business," retorted Roop.

"The manager hiding behind the mask is none other than Gerhart Kaiser. We aren't fooled and neither are the fans as they can see the physical resemblance between Kaiser and this mystery man. If that manager is anywhere near the ring the night Pepper and I meet Roop and Smirnoff, we'll tear off that mask and show the fans that it really is Kaiser," said Madril.

"Lies, all lies," screamed Smirnoff, lashing out at Madril with his fists.

This touched off a wild melee and order was only restored when promoter Miller told the fiercesome foursome to cease and desist under threat of a suspension, fine and even arrest.

Peace was finally restored but not before both sides had vowed to get even in the ring. Promoter Miller finally escorted Gomez and Madril out of the office, promising to meet them on the first tee in an hour as the only reason the popular Mexican matmen had dropped by the office was to ask Miller if he wanted to go out for a friendly round of golf.

However, Roop and Smirnoff had a few things to say before departing the scene.

"You've seen those beautiful tag-team championship belts that we won from those imitation champions Gomez and Patterson. We are thankful to our manager Gerhart Kaiser for helping make us champions by beating

those cheaters Gomez and Patterson," stated Roop.

"My country is proud of their worthy comrade, not only for winning the tag-team title but the United States championship as well," chipped in Smirnoff. "Roop and I will soon be flying to Moscow where we have been assured a hero's welcome. We will be paraded down the streets of Moscow in a motorcade where we will be cheered by my countrymen. Roop and I will be given the keys to the city by my leaders at the Kremlin and we expect a national holiday to be declared.

"We are glad to put our title on the line against those ignorant Mexicans, Gomez and Madril," continued Smirnoff. "However, there is one condition, we want you to have two stretchers handy at ringside. When we get through with Gomez and Madril they'll be back in Mexico picking cotton, that is, after they are released from hospital."

So the stage was set for a slam-bang action-packed encounter and the Roop-Smirnoff, Gomez-Madril teams didn't disappoint the fans who flocked to the Modesto Arena for another night of mat mayhem.

From the opening bell, the grapplers were like four wild animals and only constant warnings from the referee kept the match from turning into an immediate four-man free-for-all.

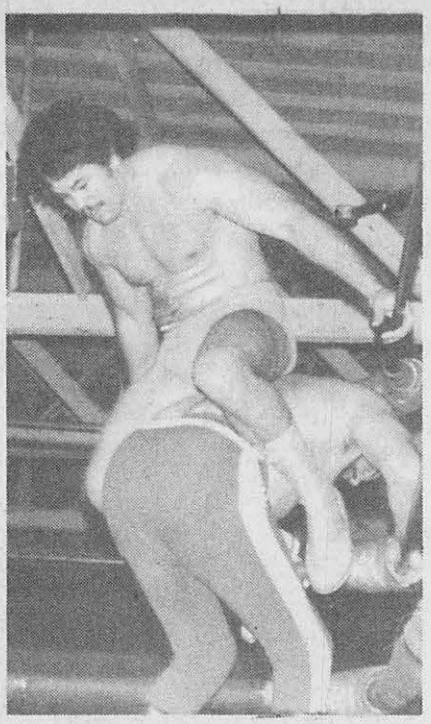
The turning point in the first fall occurred when Madril had the unfortunate experience of being trapped in the villains' corner where Roop and Smirnoff took turns working him over when they weren't doubleteaming Alberto.

Repeated choke holds and trips into the turnbuckle as well as two-fisted and footed attacks while the bad guys took turns holding Madril's arms.

Softened up by these vicious and illegal attacks, Madril was fair game for Roop's backbreaker which gave the bad guys the first fall.

Roop and Smirnoff could hardly wait for the second fall to start as they immediately dragged Madril over to their corner where they continued their double-teaming tactics of the first fall.

When Roop and Smirnoff hung Madril out to dry, so to speak, putting his neck on the middle rope then taking turns applying pressure with their knees, the fiery Gomez had seen enough and decided to intervene.



When Alexis Smirnoff attempted a flying tackle, Alberto Madril alertly leaped over him, coming down on the Mad Russian's back.

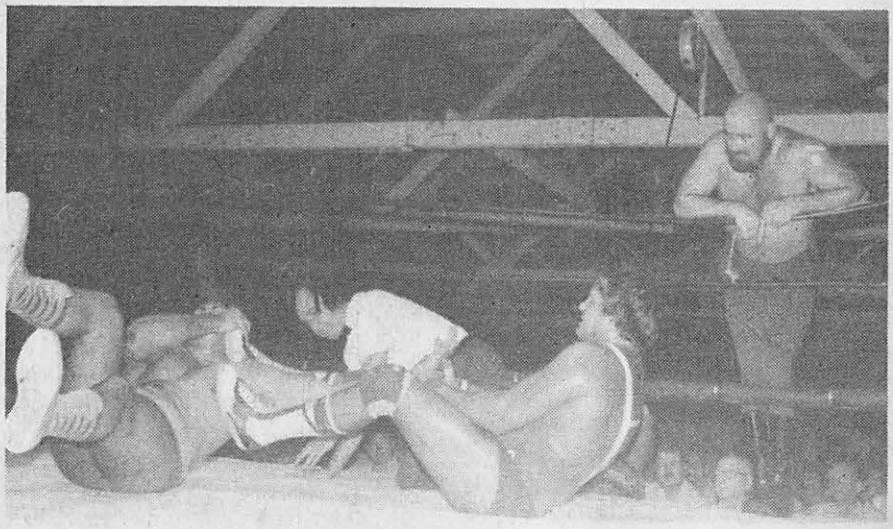
Storming into the ring, Gomez sent Roop and Smirnoff flying with an assortment of punches and kneedrops. This attack not only gave Madril an opportunity to gain his second breath but also a chance to make a legal tag.

Still enraged, Gomez proceeded to toss Roop out of the ring then went to work on Smirnoff with a variety of wrist and armlocks, flying back bodydrops and finally squared the match at one fall apiece with a cradle hold.

When the bell rang for the third fall, Gomez continued where he left off planting his fists and feet on Smirnoff's face and body with increasing regularity.

However, the Mad Russian doesn't bow easily and clawed at Pepper's eyes in a desperate attempt to turn the tide. A thumb to the throat followed and then Smirnoff dragged the weakened Gomez where Roop was waiting to wrap the tag-team rope around Pepper's throat. While Roop was choking Gomez into a state of semi-consciousness Smirnoff kept arguing with the referee to distract him and keep him from catching Roop at this dastardly deed.

A desperation elbow to Roop's jaw enabled Gomez to free himself from the rope and an instinctive kick to Smirnoff's stomach enabled Pepper to escape to the safety of his own corner where Madril was waiting anxiously to make the tag.

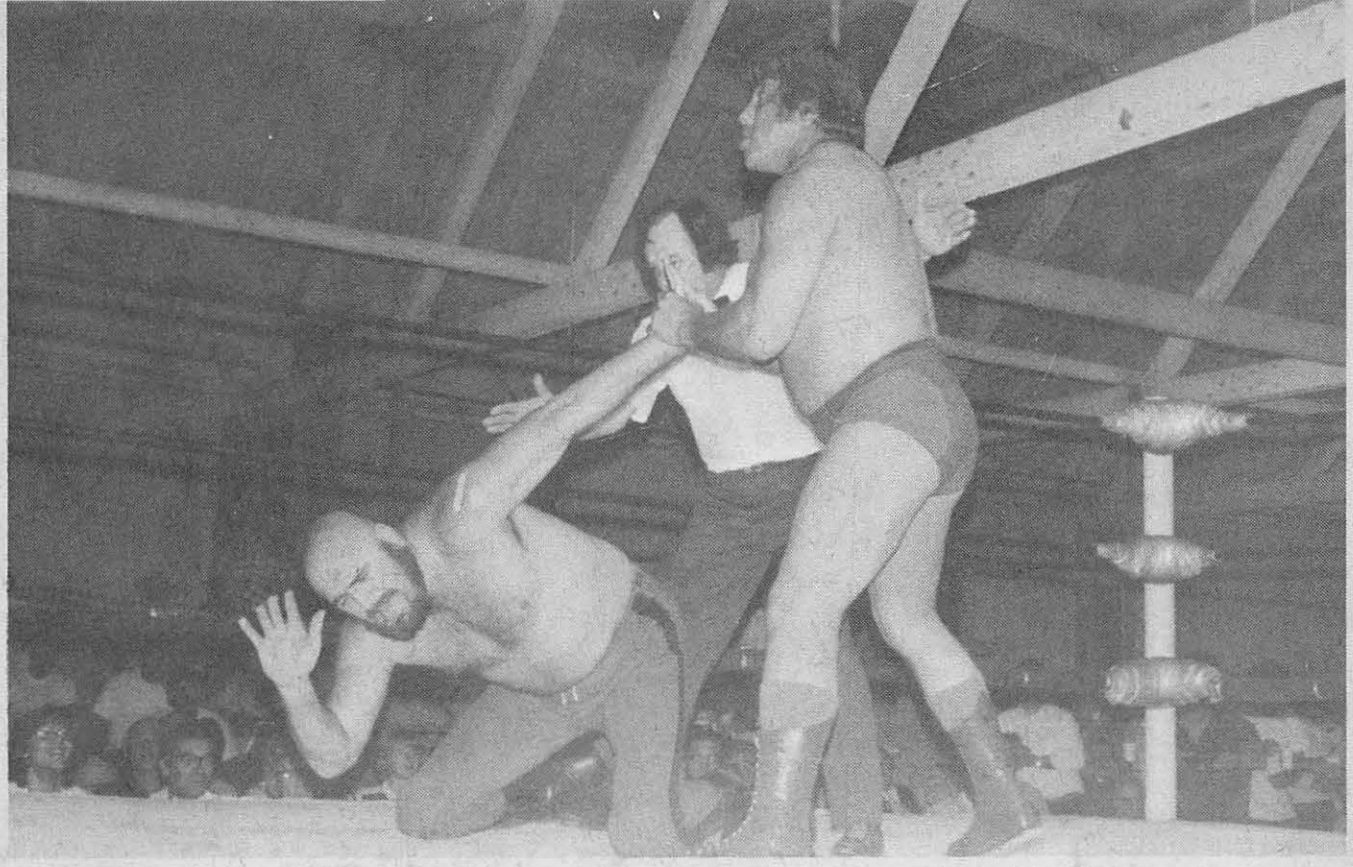


Bob Roop attempts to stretch Alberto Madril's arm a few extra inches while tag-team partner Alexis Smirnoff leans over the ropes and tells Roop to break it off.

An enraged Madril soon had Roop and Smirnoff on the run and they finally had to flee the ring to regroup.

When the villains returned to the ring, they were greeted by a flurry of flying fists with Gomez and Roop standing toe-to-toe in the center of the ring while Madril and Smirnoff slugged it out on the ring apron.

A series of back bodydrops and bodyslams took the wind out of



A fired-up Pepper Gomez has Alexis Smirnoff on his knees begging for mercy as he threatens to snap the Russian's wrist.

Roop's sail before the referee could get Gomez back to his corner where he belonged.

While Roop lay in the center of he ring like a beached whale, unconscious of what was going on around him, the Madril-Smirnoff slugfest continued with a round-house right from the Russian sending Alberto reeling back into the ring.

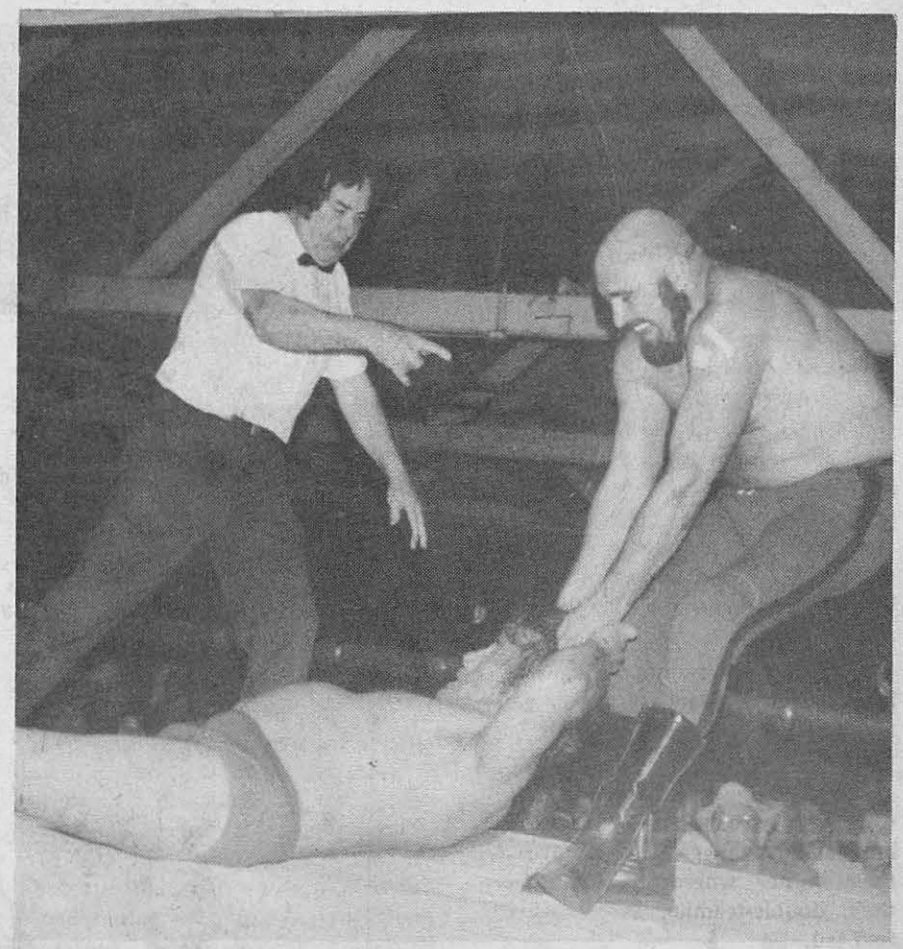
Dazed, Madril stumbled over the body of Roop and collapsed over his opponent's fallen form. The referee dropped to his knee ready to toll off the fateful count of three which would end the Roop-Smirnoff reign.

One, two but just as the referee was ready to raise his hand for the final count, Smirnoff charged into the ring and yanked Madril off his partner.

This move cost Roop and Smirnoff the match as Alexis was immediately disqualified. However, the not-so-mad Russian had saved their reassured championship belts as the title can't change hands on a disqualification.

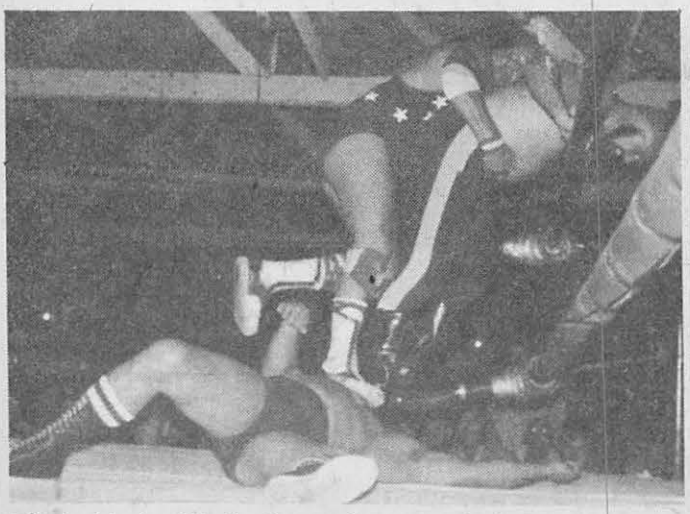
So, Roop and Smirnoff were losers and still champions,

If Roop and Smirnoff are going to continue their reign of terror it was obvious that they needed their 'insurance policy' in the person of Gerhart Kaiser, mask or no mask.

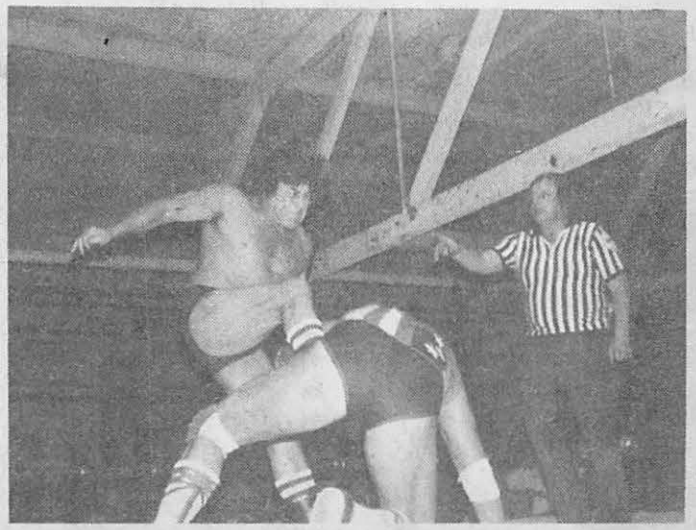


The referee warns Alexis Smirnoff, but to no avail as he drags Pepper Gomez across the ring by the hair.

Pepper Gomez is still in dire straits as he hangs limply over the middle rope while Alexis Smirnoff plants his knee on the back of Pepper's neck.



It's double trouble for Pepper Gomez as both Bob Roop and Alexis Smirnoff use him for a door mat. Note how they get extra leverage, Smirnoff by grabbing the rope and Roop by wrapping his arms around Smirnoff.



Pepper Gomez gives Bob Roop a taste of his own medicine as he lashes out with a foot to the midsection while ignoring the referee's order to cease and desist.

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Unless You plan on working the rest of your life - You better get hold of this valuable book!

Want to get out of the rat race? Have some fun and maybe get rich?

It's a fact that there are thousands of 'fat-cats' out there who are raking in the money, while putting in almost no physical labor!

I should know, I'm one of those 'fat-cats'!

But, I used to work hard, you know, the 12 hour day, 6 and 7 days a week. I was too busy working to make any real money! I never made the Big-Money until I started working less, a lot less!!

Today, I work but a few hours a day (if I want to), yet I take in thousands of dollars a day, every day of the year! I am surrounded by beautiful women, clothed and even totally nude (how's that for a fun, lazy way to make money?).

FUN, GLAMOUR WAYS TO MAKE MONEY!!

Imagine making money while girls by the dozens undress in front of you! Can be started in a one room office. A fun, legal way to make money! Just one of dozens of ways to make fun, lazy money!!

Now, pardon me if I brag, but my words are worthless unless I can prove to you that I know what I am talking about!

I am a Millionaire and I have all the things associated with wealth. I live in a home valued over $150,000.00 and I have a second vacation home on the lake (with several boats). And I drive the most expensive built car in America!

I own an apartment building, plus two office buildings, real estate, investments and I have a fortune in the bank!

Yet, for many years I was poor -- very poor. I started with less than $50 -- and working only a few hours a day, I made over a Million dollars!! (and, I was having a 'ball' while making all this money)

Money gives me the freedom and the time to enjoy life! I do exactly what I want to do! I answer to no one. I vacation whenever and wherever I want, whether it be Las Vegas, Hawaii, Acapulco or Florida - all First Class!!

Regardless where I am that money keeps rolling in! My glamorous assistants keep taking in the money. Certainly, the people who are making twenty times as much money as you are, aren't putting in twenty times as much work as you are (think about that).

Work doesn't make you Big-Money --- IT'S WHAT YOU DO THAT MAKES YOU BIG MONEY. That's how you get rich, you find 'EASY MONEY PLANS' that make you money!! Money hand-over-fist, until YOU are wealthy!!

I have opened up my files and put together a BIG BOOK, loaded with ingenious, shrewd, dynamite ways to make a lot of money!!

Why did I put together this book? Two reasons - vanity, seeing my name on a big book and something to show my children, someday!

My second reason is that so many people have asked me to put a book together, because many have been fascinated, even envious of my life style (and money). Almost everyone I talk to is unhappy with the way they are earning a living! They beg me to give them my secrets on making a lot of money, in a fun, lazy way!

If you really want to be rich...and have that money pouring in (and really enjoy the way you're making the money), knowing that other men envy you, women admire you, and that you've gotten more than your share of life -- this book will show you the way!

$1000.00 A WEEK!! (yet, I do nothing)

The young lady above is showing you the money she makes for me, every week!! She does all the work - all I do is the banking! I profit up to $1,000 weekly, year after year!

It took me several years to perfect this Money-Making-Plan - but, you can have the entire set of plans, including my valuable forms! All you have to do is clip them out of the book and take it to your printer -- and you are in business!!

This Money-Plan provides a very necessary service to businesses! You sell nothing!! You use nothing but my special forms, which you are free to duplicate.

You don't have to do any work (unless you want to), you can hire a girl to do the typing and stuffing of envelopes!

Your phone book will give you all the names and addresses you need for this Money-Making-Plan. It can be started in any corner of your home -- and you can start with very little money!!

Why should I give you my valuable secrets and printed forms? Simply because it is impossible for me to cover the entire country -- millions need this valuable service. I can only tap a small part of it --- you're welcome to the rest!!

Most of these 'Easy Money Plans' require little capital (if any), and many can be done almost anywhere.

In fact, I was making over $1,000 a week operating out of my basement (for several years), before I moved into an office!

Why not get everything you want out of life? You can still do it! If you have a job you hate and you're just getting by in life -- this book can erase your financial burden and put you on easy street for the rest of your life!

Age doesn't matter -- young or not so young, it's still easy to make money in a fun, lazy way! Education means nothing (I had a C average in high school). Background means nothing (believe me, mine was bad). If you're broke, that means nothing (I lived near poverty and started with pocket change).

Try my book out -- take a few days or up to 6 months and if you feel, for any reason that this book isn't worth 100 times what you paid for it, return it for a full fast refund! No questions asked. Just like that!

You can use this book without risking a single penny! I'll give you a 100% money-back guarantee which will completely eliminate your risk) -- you would be a fool not to try this book! It's the biggest bargain ever! Why? Because for the small sum of $10 you're going to get a Big, Fat Valuable Book (large, over 8 x 11), loaded and crammed with photo's, illustrations and Fun,Lazy Ways To Make A Lot Of Money!!

You have nothing to lose and everything to gain! If I am wrong all you have lost is a few minutes, and a postage stamp! But, if I am right -- wow -- your whole life style is going to change!!

Kurt Todd

Kurt Todd/ Success International
Box 2447, Dept COM-2
Livonia, Mich 48151

Okay, Kurt, I accept your offer! Send me that Big, Fat Book – 'FUN, LAZY WAYS TO MAKE A LOT OF MONEY'! But, it's got to make me lots of money, or I can return it for a full, fast refund! On that basis, I enclose $10 (cash, check or money order).

☐ I'm in a big hurry, send it FIRST CLASS (Air Mail)...enclosed find an extra $2 for postage/handling!

Please charge Bank Americard ☐ Master Charge ☐

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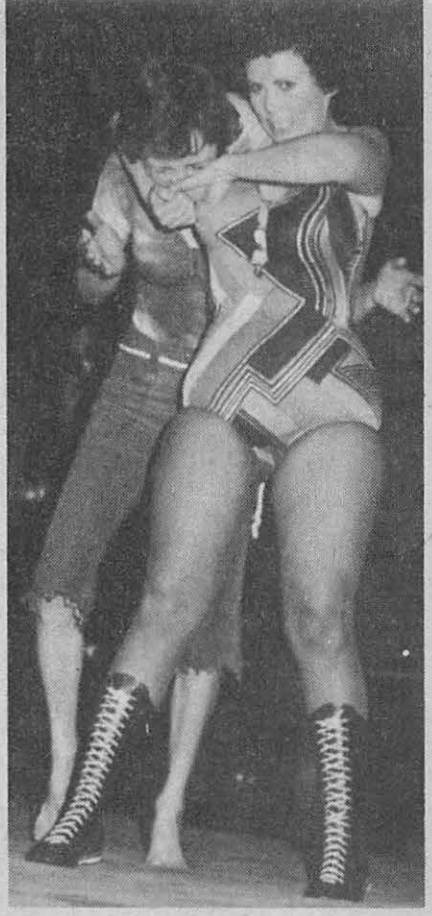
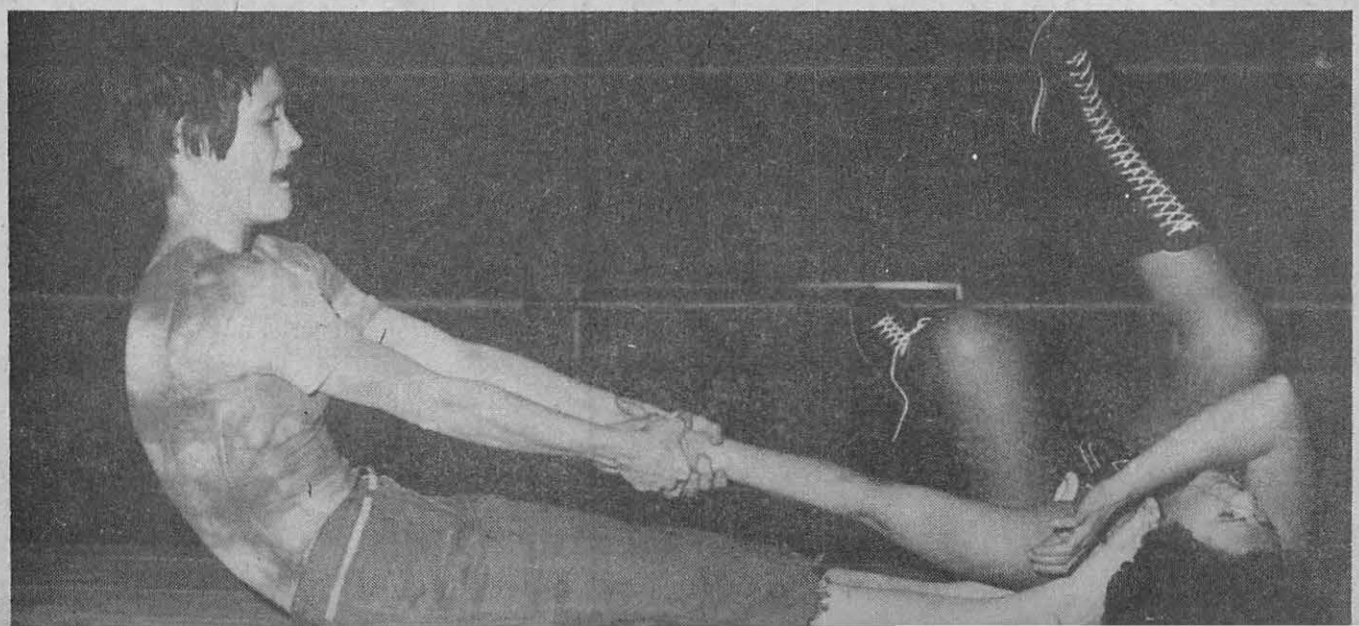
GORDON'S GRAPPLIN' NEWS

By Gene Gordon



Turnabout is fair play in these two shots from a recent match between two fighting females, Daisy Mae and Sandy Partlow. Sandy has Daisy in a side headlock in the photo on the left, and the roles are reversed in the photo on the right which appears to delight Daisy.

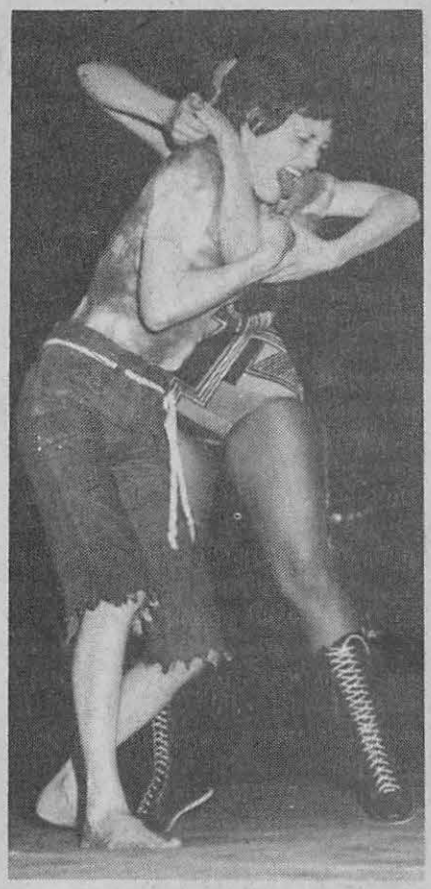
Daisy Mae is doing her best to give Sandy a 'boarding house' reach as she stretches Miss Partlow's arm and shoulder muscles.



A punch to the midsection is one way to escape a side headlock, but Daisy Mae obviously didn't enjoy Sandy's means of escape.

Sandy Partlow looks innocently up at the referee as Daisy Mae complains that Sandy has been choking her.

An arm toss by Daisy Mae sends Sandy Partlow crashing to the canvas and it isn't a happy landing.

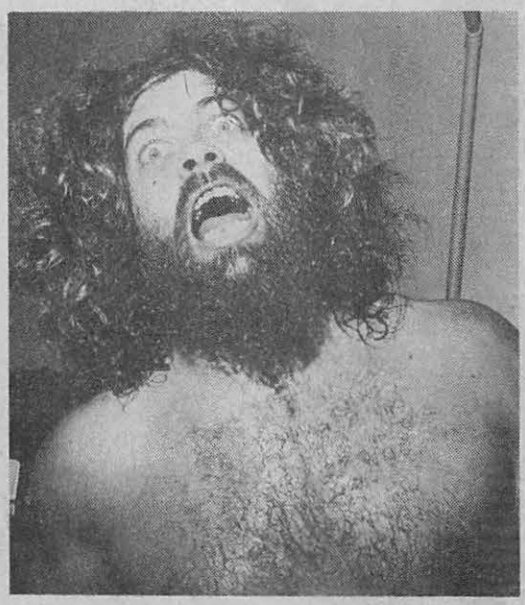


Daisy Mae has her tongue out as she struggles to catch her breath and Sandy does her best to make Daisy's breathing a little more difficult.

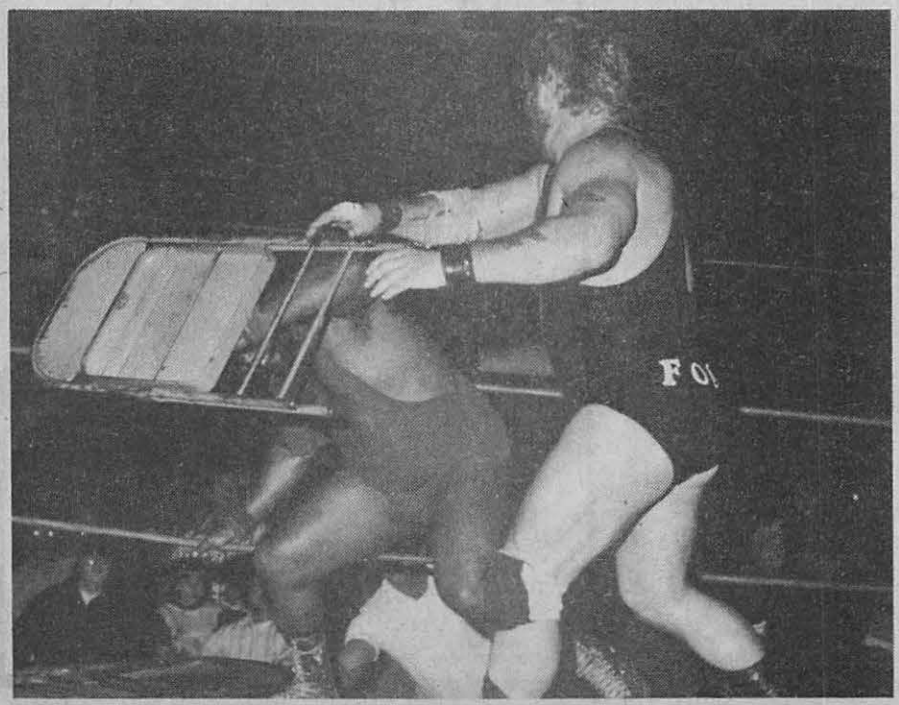
After dropping to one knee, Daisy cleverly escaped the choke hold by treating Sandy to a free and unexpected flight by flipping her ring foe.

Daisy is quick to follow up her advantage and goes to work on Sandy's leg, while Miss Partlow covers her head to fight back the pain. Sandy eventually won this action-packed International Wrestling Association scrap.

◀ A trio that spells trouble wherever they appear, the International Wrestling Association tag-team champions Rip (left) and Buzz Tyler and their notorious manager Billy (Toy Bulldog) Hines (center).



Mike (Hippy) Boyette has a wild-eyed expression as he poses for a picture.



◀ Everyone knows that a chair is for sitting on, but Don (The Fonz) Fargo has another use for a chair in this photo as he brings it crashing down on Ed Fury's head.

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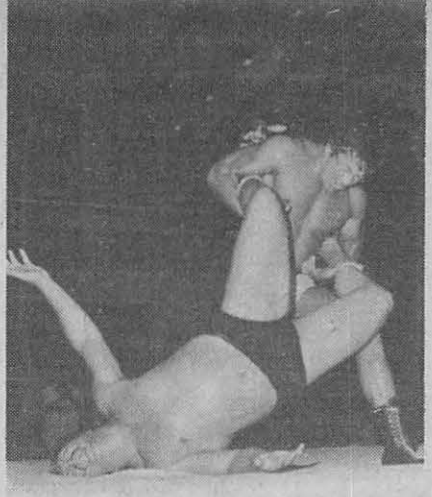
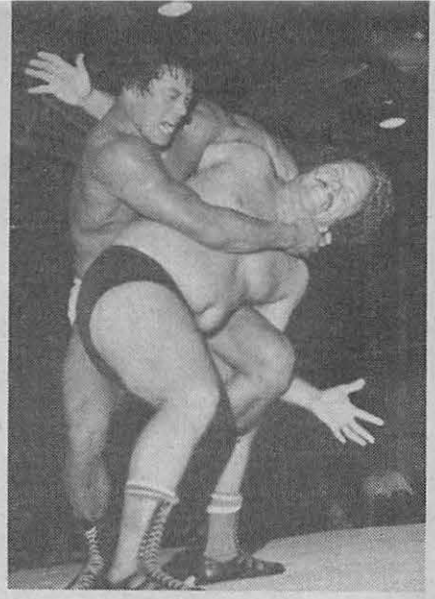
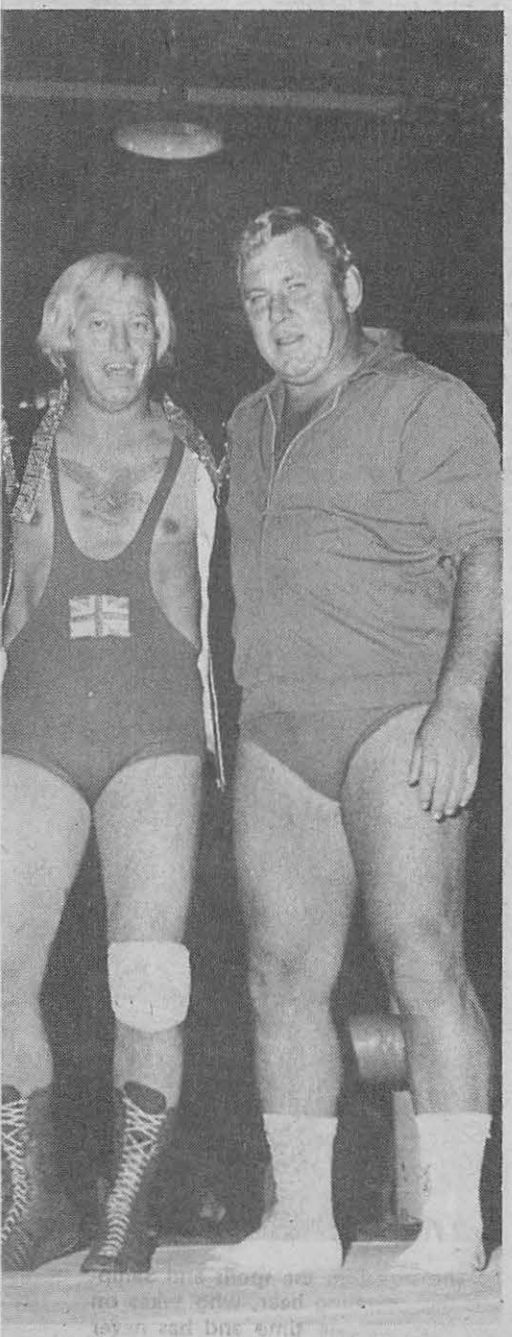
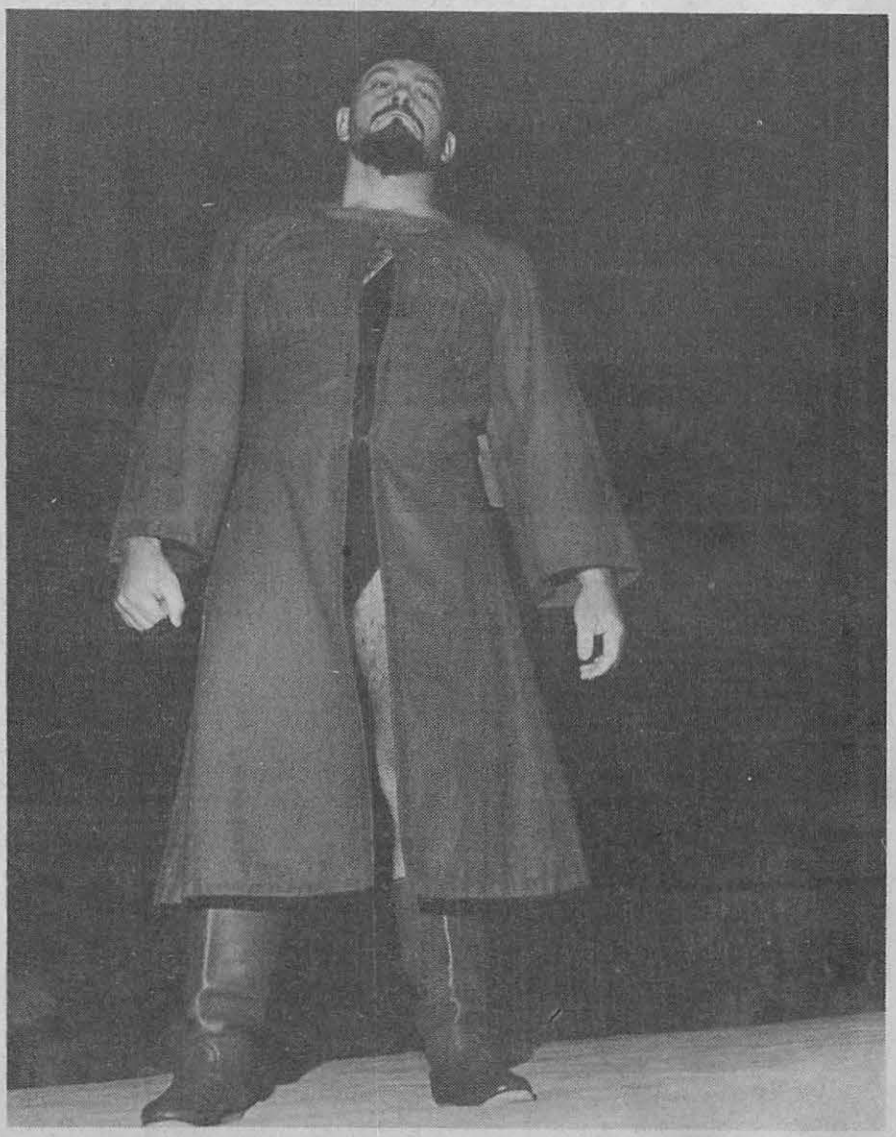




There are nights a wrestler wishes he had stayed in bed and Bill White had one of those nights in a recent match with Dr. Fujanami. White howls in pain in the photo on the left, then is about to submit to the Boston Crab hold in the photo on the right, as the referee awaits his words of surrender.

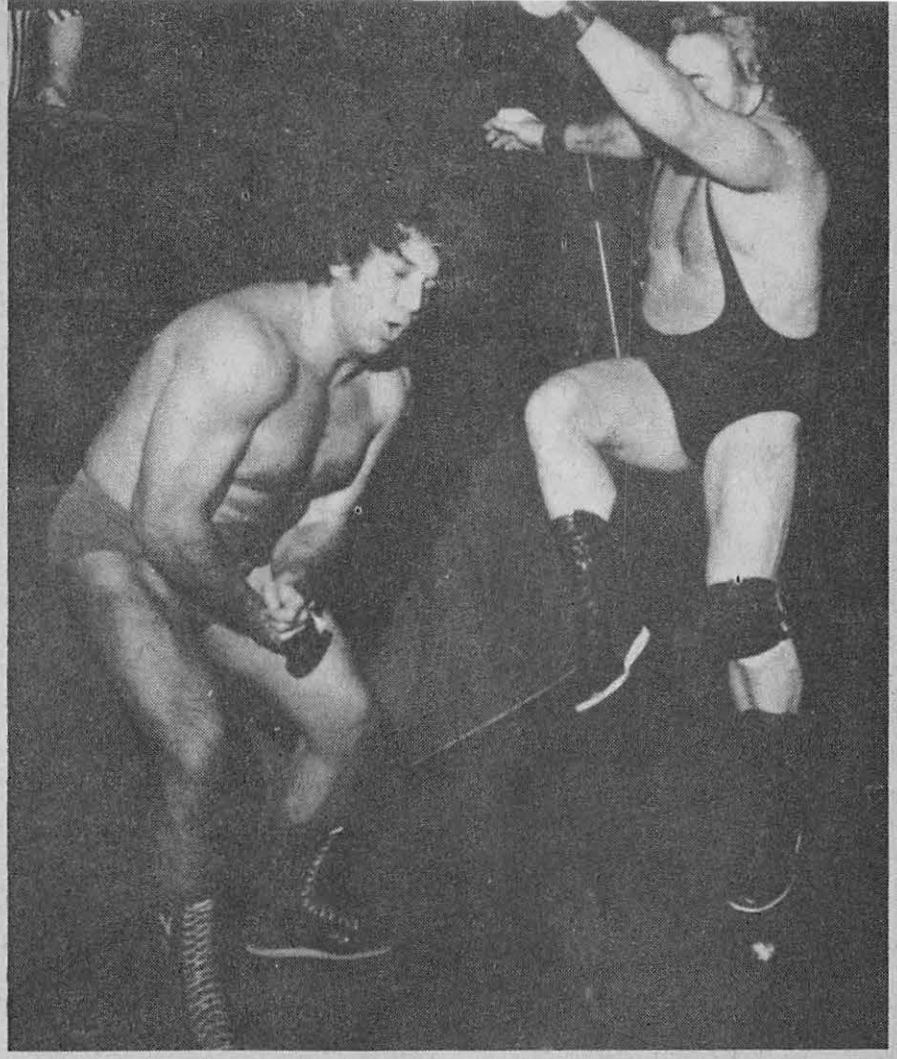


A popular tag-team combination in the Carolinas and Virginia area is Johnny Eagle (left) and Danny Miller.

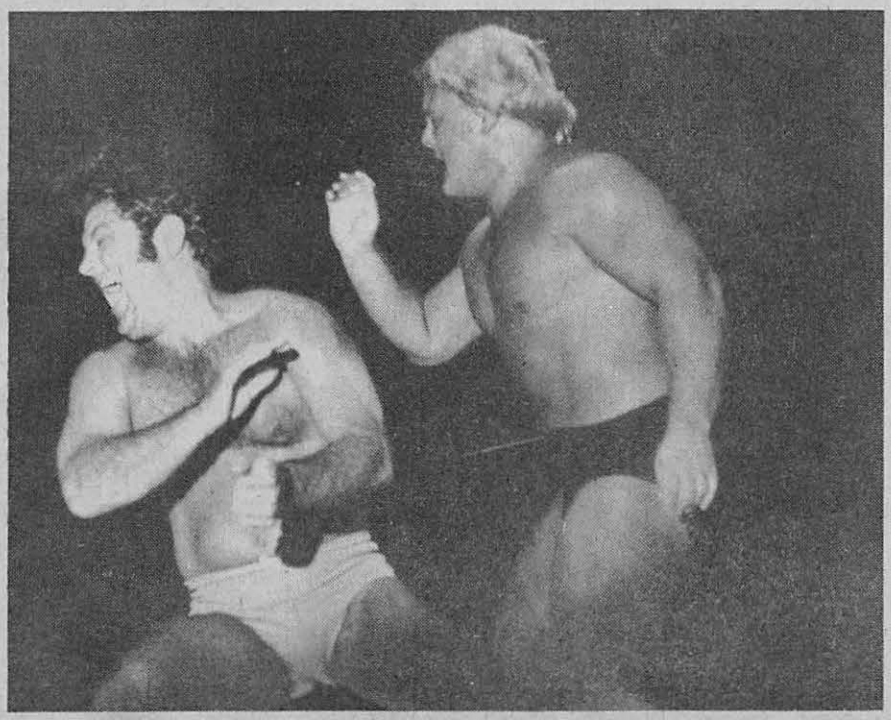


Ivan Koloff has an expression of almost utter disdain as he is introduced prior to another night of wrestling action.

A chip off the old block is the pistol-packin' son of International Wrestling Association star Bulldog Bower.



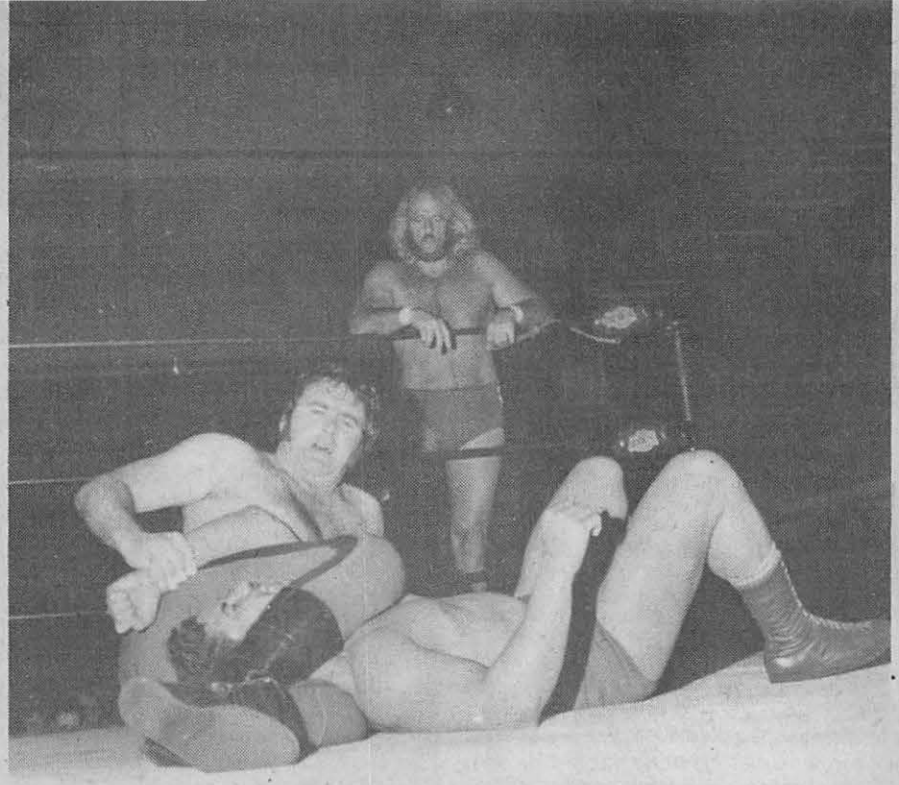
A foot in the midsection is certainly no aid to digestion as Nick DeCarlo discovers much to his discomfort during his bout with Don (The Fonz) Fargo.



Greg Valentine (right) staggers Johnny Weaver after scoring with a karate chop to the throat.

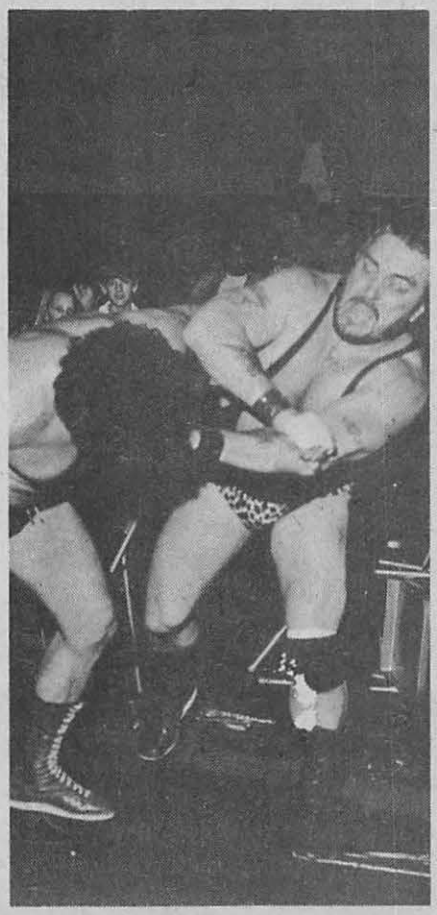
To the victor go the spoils and Sampson the wrestling bear, who takes on two men at one time and has never been beaten, enjoys his favorite beverage while owner-trainer Bill Walker looks on.

GORDON'S GRAPPLIN' GEMS

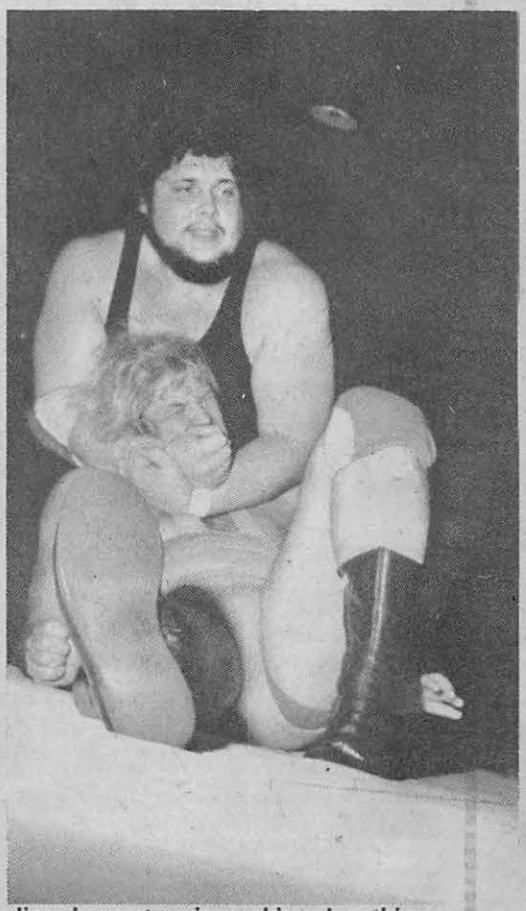


Mike DuBois has the upper hand at this stage of his mat action against Roberto Soto as he has Soto snugly wrapped in a leg scissors.

Hans Schroeder, another in the long line of Teuton terrors who have made their mark in the wrestling world.



The action is fast-paced and furious as Nick DeCarlo (left) and Don (The Fonz) Fargo take their brass knucks battle outside the ring.



Jim Lancaster is making breathing difficult for Johnny Eagles as he clamps his hamlike hand over the mouth of his foe while applying a choke hold.

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Jocelyne Bernier

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FANATICAL FANS AN OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD

By Jess Hernandez

(Photo by Gene Gordon)

Victor Rivera has felt the wrath of berserk fans and it isn't a pleasant experience as this photo indicates.

Getting the fans riled up is all part of the wonderful world of wrestling, but when the crowd turns violent then it spells trouble for the grapplers.

Los Angeles, Calif. — The occupational hazards that today's matmen encounter inside the arena would fill a local hospital to capacity. Not only have many superstar greats like Bruno Sammartino, Harley Race and John Tolos visited the hospital as patients on stretchers, but many herculean giants were fortunate to leave the hospital alive.

Breaking an arm or leg inside the arena for a living is only part of the job. The most hazardous part of the job that behemoths like Victor Rivera, Mil Mascaras and Billy Graham face today is not what happens inside the ring but outside. The punishment and physical abuse gladiators take from wild-eye spectators would make the blood curdle! Many of today's gladiators have experienced the wrath of sadistic and diabolical ringside fans. Some even wear the scars of knife wounds inflicted by infuriated fans.

"Wrestling fans are the most bloodthirsty fans in sports. They aren't satisfied or happy until you break somebody's arm or leg and the women are the most blood-thirsty," said ex-matman Mike Mazurki.

Despite the tight security in many of today's arenas, matches are getting out of hand and into the control of spectators. What is worse, the gladiators themselves who carry blunt weapons like chains are guilty of inflicting a fatal blow to the grunt and groan sport.

Probably the most famous incident in which a wrestling crowd went berserk and almost claimed a fatality took place in Texas. The bewildered and intended victim was rough-house grappler Sonny Meyers who was tossed outside the ring. Before Sonny could get up he was pounced upon by a berserk, wild-eyed gang of fans who flailed at him with knives!

Sonny was lucky to escape the wrath of the Texas crowd with his life. Despite having his torso sliced

into a bloody mess and left near death — it took 273 stitches to patch him up — Sonny overcame his ordeal. One-time heavyweight contender Frank (Brother) Jares was stabbed between the eyes by a knife-wielding and sadistic onlooker.

At the Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles, a rambunctious, sadistic fan threw a deadly powder into the ring that almost blinded Victor Rivera. He was hospitalized for months and feared for the loss of his eyesight. He made a remarkable recovery and sought out to get the culprit who almost ended his career.

"Wrestling is one of the most dangerous sports and a man can get killed. I've stitched up many wrestlers who suffered painful injuries," said Dr. Schwartz of the Olympic Club.

It doesn't surprise anyone that women wrestling fans carry their grudges and hate for dirty matmen, too far. In Hammond, Indiana, Hatpin Mary a former wrestler was reknowned for sticking a hatpin into gladiators who turned their back on the sadistic ringside fan.

Some years ago in Detroit, Ivan Rasputin tried to be a good samaritan. He came to the defense of a local referee and got himself conked on the head by a wrench!

The Zaharias Brothers, George and Chris, never did much to endear the fans to their brand of mayhem making. In San Diego one night, they carried their riotous act and roadshow too far and as a result the outraged fans burned the wrestling arena to a crisp.

In Mexico City, Bobby Corona became enraged by a tormenting fan and he chased his tormentor down the aisle and outside the arena.

Some fans in Elizabeth, N.J. were so miffed at the referee for disqualifying a local favorite, they stormed the ring, knocked down the arbiter, trampled him and shoved the sleeve of his shirt into his throat!

In the wild, wild world of wrestling today, a fearless gladiator like Bruno Sammartino or Raul Mata not only needs strength, endurance, skill and a cool head, but he's got to be lucky too. Which only proves that wrestling is not for sissies or crybabies. You have to have a strong constitution to survive the wrath and fury of wrestling fans!

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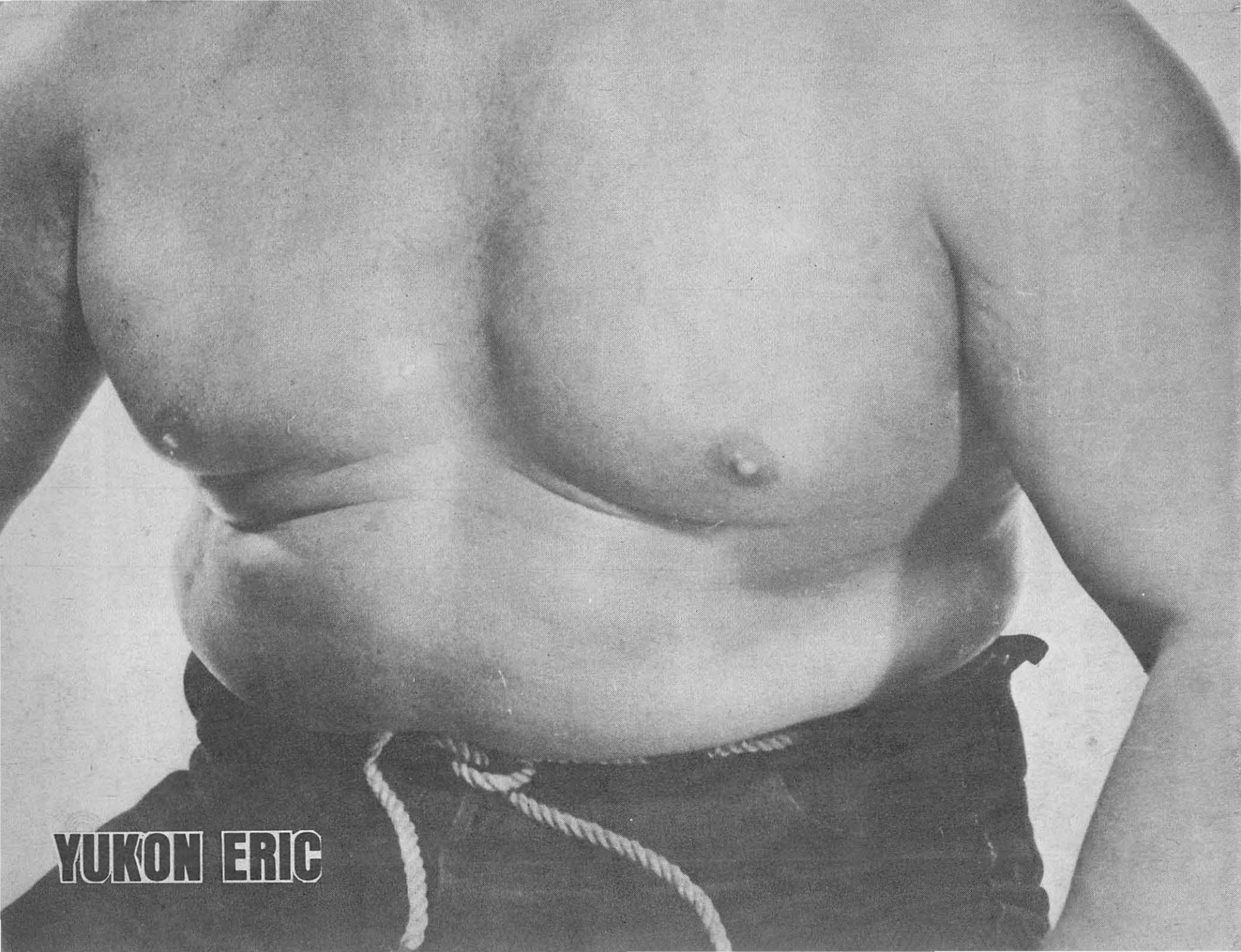
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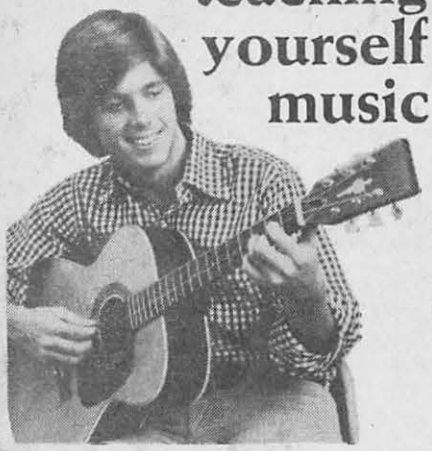
The secret of teaching yourself music



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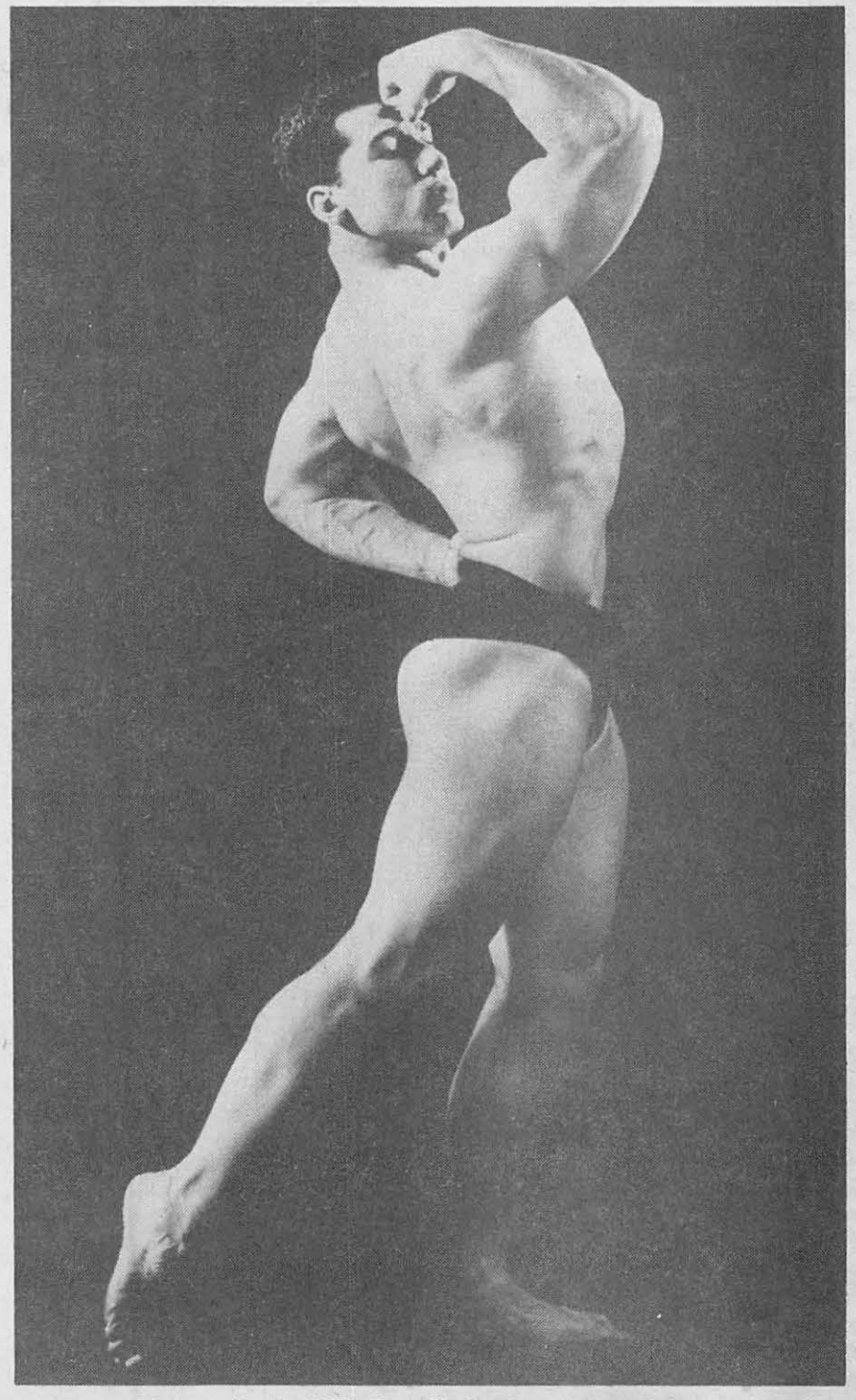


Selected as Mr. America in 1965, Tony Marino became one of the most popular performers in the grappling game. However, he has turned over a new leaf and become a mat meanie.

The transformation of Tony Marino from matdom's 'Mr. Nice Guy' to a vile villain came as a complete shock to followers of the grappling game.

Before trying to unravel the mystery of why Marino has turned over a new leaf, perhaps a recap of the Italian Stallion's progress since returning to the United States after a successful stint in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

When Marino returned to the midwest mat circles, his only goal was to end the reign of Bulldog Don Kent as United States champion.

Marino's wrestling skills soon made him the top contender for Kent's title, but Tony could never get Bulldog to put his title on the line in a championship clash.

True, the Kent-Marino non-title bouts became legendary with each more bloody than the last, but with always the same result... "The winner, but still not United States champion, Tony Marino."

It took pressure from the National Wrestling Alliance to finally force Kent to give Marino his long-sought crack at the championship. Bulldog certainly didn't savor the thought of risking his title against Marino, but it was either fight Tony for the title or have the NWA strip the championship belt from him.

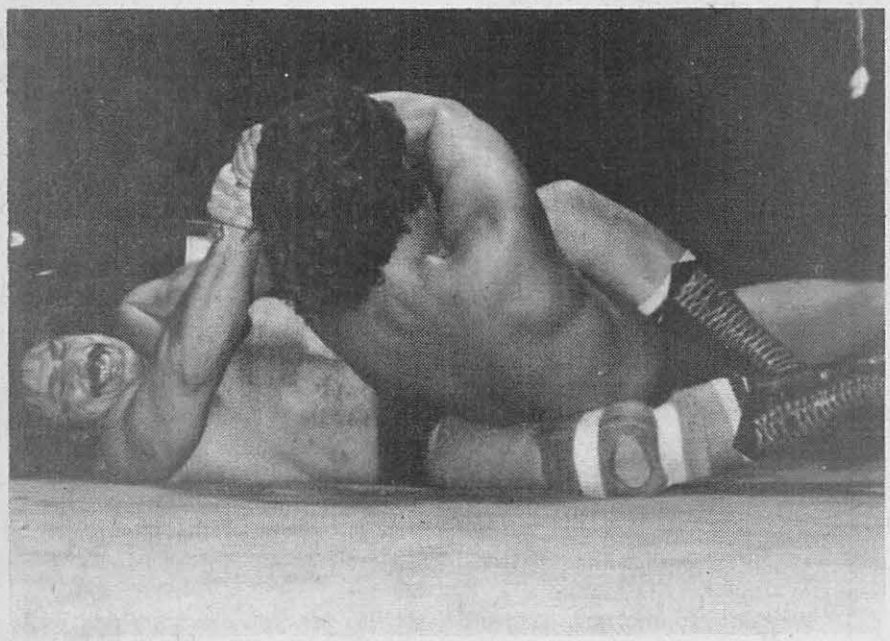
Marino's first crack at the championship resulted in a disqualification victory with King Ripper Collins coming to Kent's rescue. Although he got the win, Marino never got the title as the championship belt can't change hands on a disqualification. Marino and Kent tangled several more times with the title at stake, but every time Tony had the U.S. championship in his grasp Collins came along and interfered.

Enough was enough as far as Marino was concerned, so Tony took a match with Collins and gave Ripper the worst beating of his career.

Tony was now ready for another match with Kent, but was told he would have to take on one of the grappling game's vilest villains, The Sheik, to qualify for another U.S. title tiff.

Marino was in complete command of his match with The Sheik until the bad guy dug deep into his bag of dastardly deeds and proceeded to throw fire in Tony's face. Temporarily blinded by the flames, Marino fell victim to The Sheik. After the bout, Tony was hospitalized and treated for facial and scalp burns which kept him out of action for a few weeks.

In fact, when he returned to the ring, Marino wore a mask until the



Tony Marino grits his teeth while wrapping Gino Hernandez in a leg scissors.

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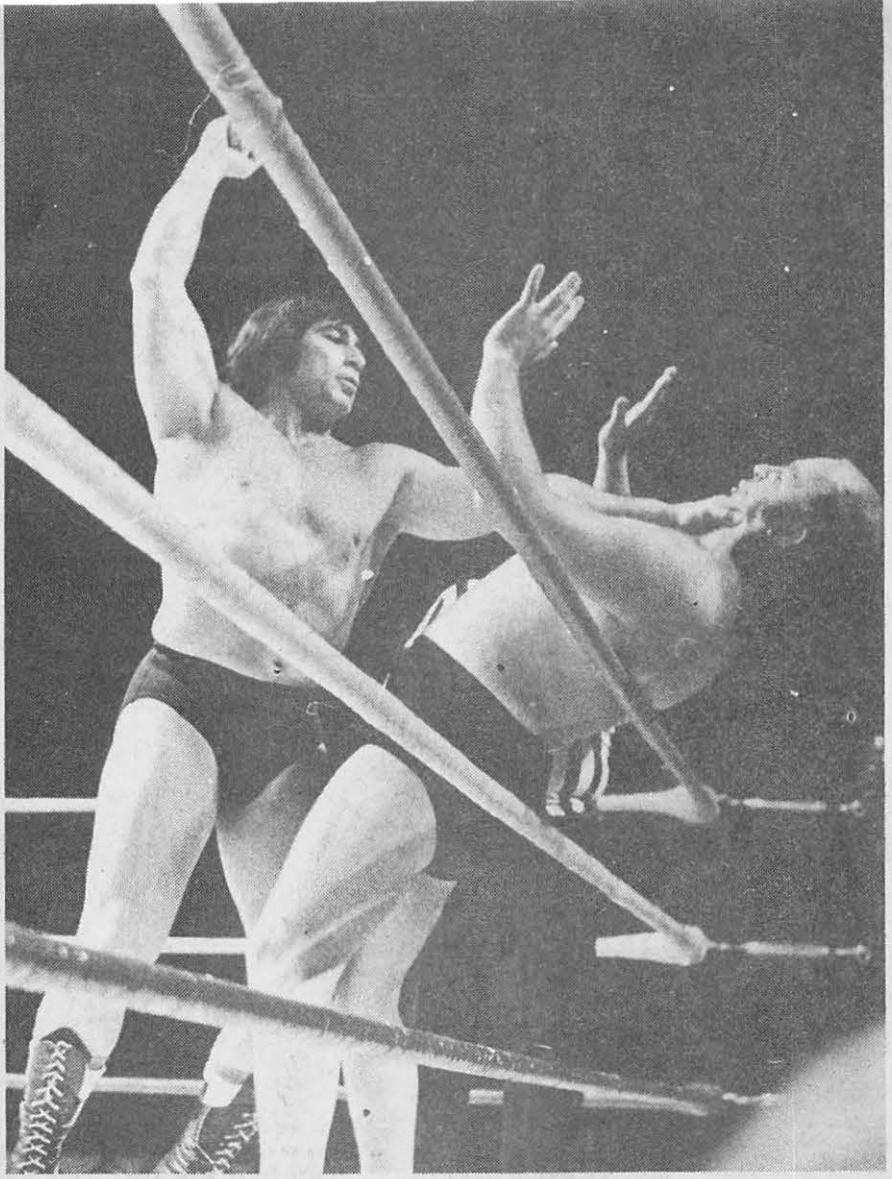


Here Tony Marino has Mike Loren at his mercy. The Marino of old would have broken the hold cleanly, but the new Marino takes advantage of every opportunity by hook or by crook.

burns healed completely. A series of crowd-pleasing, action-packed, no-holds-barred matches with The Sheik followed with neither man enjoying a clear-cut advantage as most of these bouts resulted in disqualification for either and/or both wrestlers.

While Marino was recovering from his injuries then engaging in his savage series with The Sheik, Bulldog Don Kent had been dethroned by a popular, fast-rising youngster named Gino Hernandez.

Meanwhile, the National Wrestling Alliance had stripped Domenic DeNucci and Chris Markoff of their tag-team title for failing to defend it since winning the belt back in May, 1976.

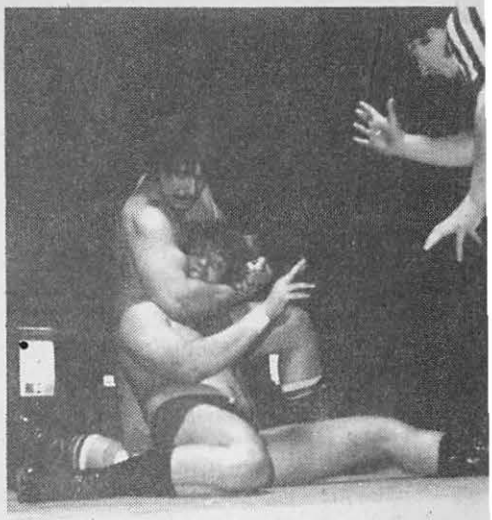
Marino teamed up with DeNucci for the elimination tournament and they were pitted against Bulldog Don Kent and Kangaroo Al Costello.

As they entered the ring, suddenly, without warning, Marino turned on his partner DeNucci, clamped a sleeper hold on him and then threw the dozing Domenic into the center of the ring where Kent simply had to lie on top of him for the pin.

After the bout, Marino explained his surprising conduct thusly, "I'm tired of being Mr. Nice Guy. What did that get me? Things are going to be different, it's a brand new ball game for me. Keep your eyes on the new Italian Stallion, Tony Marino."

During a recent television taping, Marino again showed that he had indeed turned over a new leaf, for the worst unfortunately.

Bobo Brazil was casually chat-



The referee asks Gino Hernandez if he wants to give up as Tony Marino attempts to twist his head off while applying a side headlock.

ting with Lord Athol Layton when Marino burst on the scene and told Brazil, "Get outta here. Go waste somebody else's time."

Surprising conduct indeed for a man who had been considered one of the true gentlemen of the grappling game.

Then, Marino yanked the microphone away from announcer Terry Sullivan and proceeded to give his side of the story.

"Listen, from now on I'm going to be a changed man, no more of this goody two shoes bit for me. I've seen the light.

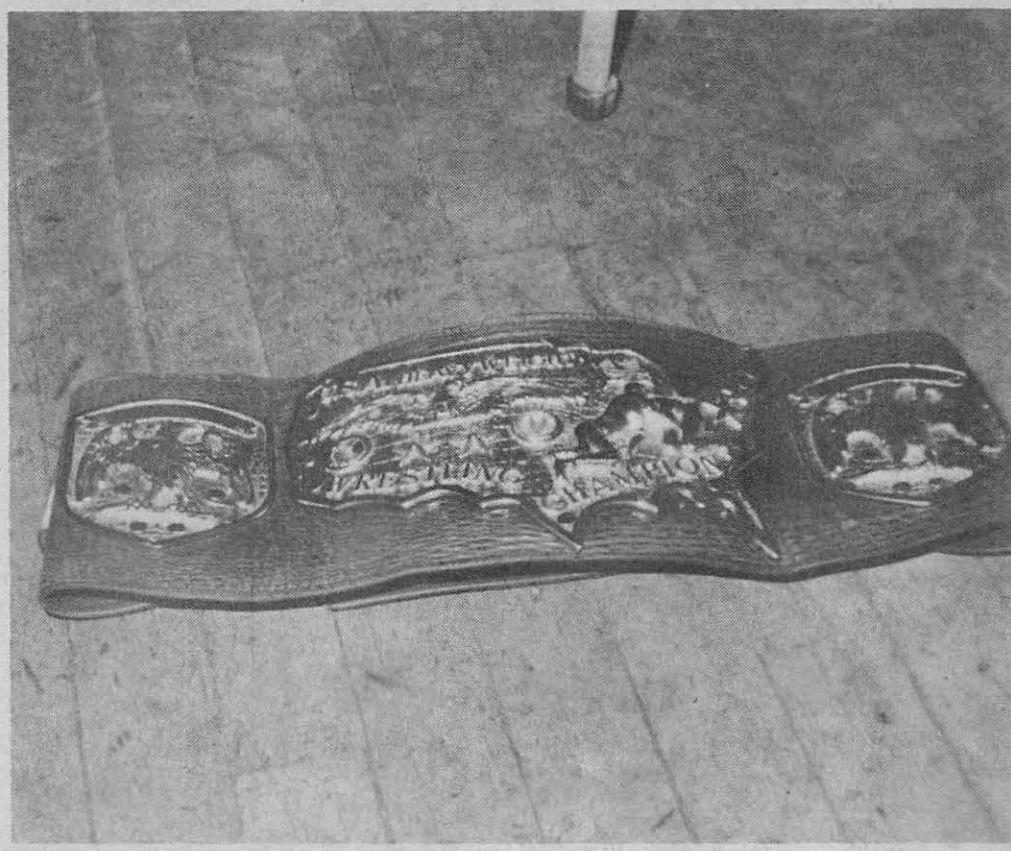
"I've changed my style, I'm taking the easy way to the big money. I want the people to call me Mr. Tony Marino.

"In case you never heard, I could have been anything I wanted as I probably have the best body in the world.

"I'm going to tell you something, in the near future I'm going to give you, the wrestling fans, the biggest treat of your lives.

"I, Tony Marino, will actually show part of my body before my matches. But, this is most important, I don't want anybody in the crowd to make a sound, I want everybody to be absolutely silent when I am showing off my great bodybuilding talent because it will spoil a beautiful showing.

"When I am finished, I will give a signal and then, and only then, will



His quest for the United States championship belt has turned Tony Marino into wrestling's answer to Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

I allow you to applaud and throw dollar bills at me. Surely, you don't think I'm going to give you this entertainment for free. My splendid physique is the reincarnation of the body beautiful and I demand to be paid accordingly."

Is this transformation in Tony Marino only a temporary thing, or has one of the grappling game's truly good guys gone full cycle and now wants to become one of the mat world's vilest villains?

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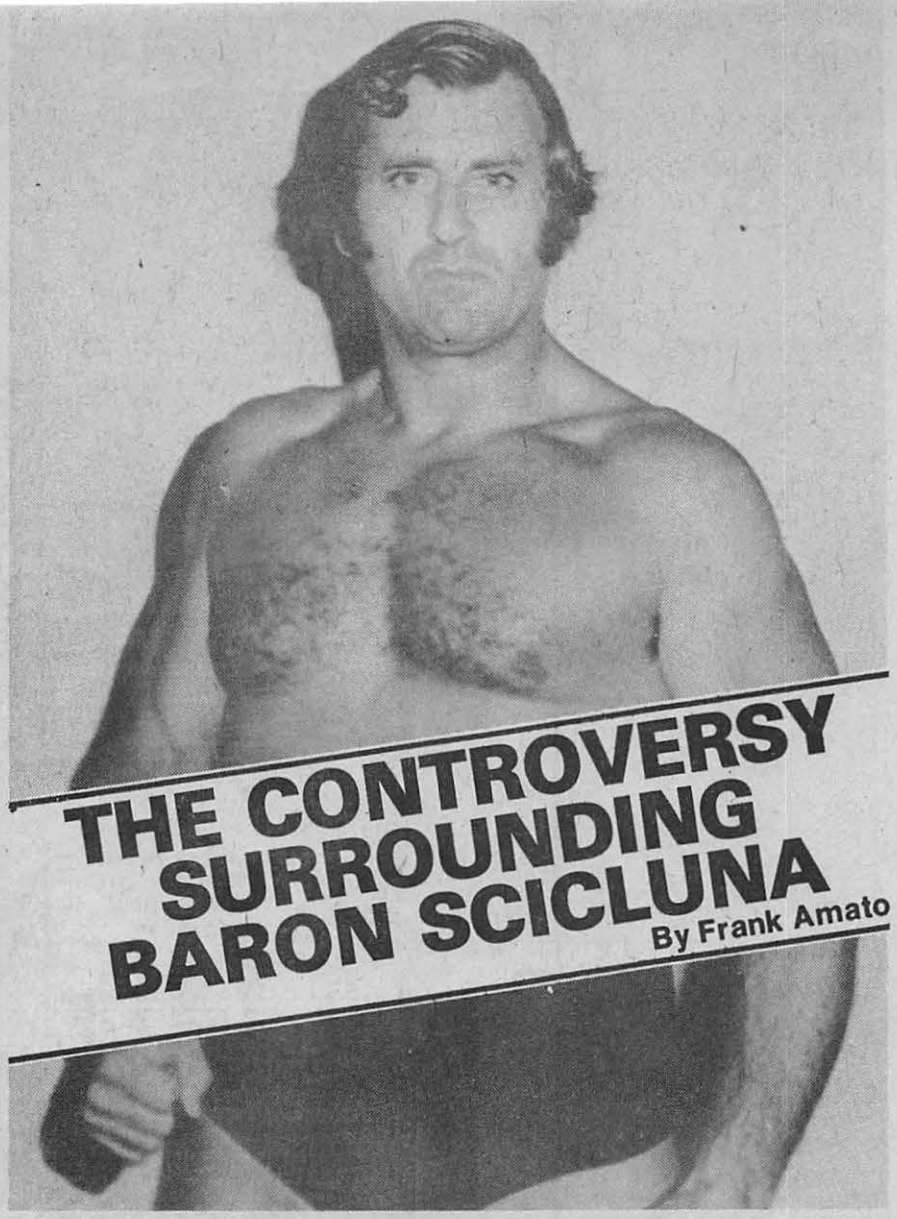

THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING BARON SCICLUNA

By Frank Amato

Baron Mikel Scicluna has the strength, size and skill to be a top-notch wrestler, yet he's the center of a controversy over his use of an illegal weapon.

The opponent writhes in pain on the mat, his hands clutching his throat. The referee searches the trunks and wrestling shoes of Baron Mikel Scicluna but he finds nothing. Scicluna extends his arms and shows his open hands, empty. The referee looks down at the opponent in obvious pain. Warily the referee motions for Scicluna to continue the match.

It was far from a match. It was a slaughter. Baron Mikel Scicluna had very little trouble so far. His opponent had offered very little in offense. For the past two minutes a taped weapon had been brought into play. In those two minutes this taped weapon had found its mark into the throat of the hapless opponent.

Baron Mikel Scicluna was the wrestler wielding this taped weapon with the expertise of both a marksman and magician. Marksman because the target was always found. Magician because the referee failed to find the weapon, no matter how hard he searched. The Baron was expert in hiding the weapon. Now you see it, now you don't.

Baron Scicluna pounces on his opponent with a side headlock and turns away from the onlooking referee. Now Scicluna takes the hidden taped weapon from under his armpit and thrusts it into the throat of the opponent. Down he goes and the referee quickly charges Scicluna. By the time Scicluna turns his back on the referee, who checks the trunks of Scicluna from behind, Scicluna has the weapon placed in his mouth.

Yet can all the wrestling fans be wrong? Can their eyes deceive them?

In his dressing room Baron Mikel Scicluna of Malta wipes the perspiration from his face with a towel. The hidden weapon question is put to him.

He answers, "I don't use a weapon. I don't need a weapon. Those dumb fans hate me. They would say anything to get me disqualified. I admit I bait them by making believe I reach into my trunks for a weapon but I never take one out. Why? Because I never have one. I'm above all that. I have been wrestling for two decades now and I've won many titles. Does a wrestler of my experience need to use a weapon? Come on now, I'm innocent of all charges."

The referee runs to face Scicluna but the veteran with quick hands puts the weapon behind his back, placing it in his trunks. Once again Scicluna shows his empty hands. The referee warns Scicluna anyway. Where there is smoke there is fire, he figures.

Now Scicluna takes his opponent and bodyslams him. He does this again. Then two swift punches drop the opponent. Now Scicluna kneedrops his man twice and covers for the pin and victory. The boos ring out and Scicluna snubs his nose out at the fans. The fans are upset because they have tried to tell the referee where Scicluna has been placing this weapon but to no avail.

Later referee Danny Barfield answered questions about Baron Scicluna and this hidden weapon he is charged with using. Says Danny, "I know the reputation of Scicluna. He is noted for using a weapon but I've yet to catch him at it. If I did I would surely disqualify him at once. But if I can't find a weapon I'm powerless. I can't take the word of irate fans. They mean well but let's face it, they can be prejudiced against a wrestler. My hands are tied until I catch him at it."

So Scicluna was asked if he had ever used a weapon.

He answered, "Of course I have. But my opponents are the ones who brought out the weapon first. I manag-

ed to take it away from them and defend myself with it.

"Take for instance one time around 1967 I was wrestling Bruno Sammartino when he was the champion. Now Sammartino is supposed to be a sportsman right? Well this night I was beating him badly, so out comes this weapon from his trunks. I managed to take possession of it and used it on Sammartino. Well the referee sees this and I'm disqualified. I was innocent but now I see that Sammartino made me take it away very easily because he wanted me to get disqualified. I fell for the trap."

Baron Scicluna continued, "You go ask any of my friends in wrestling. They will tell you how innocent I really am." So this reporter went to Scicluna's so-called friends. Here is what they said.

Doug (Gashouse) Gilbert: "I've teamed with Scicluna many times and never has he used a hidden weapon at any time. He wrestles by the rules but he is rough at times. The charges against him are false."

Ken Patera: "No way has Baron Scicluna ever used a weapon in my presence. He doesn't need a weapon."

Stan Stasiak: "This question is ridiculous. How can you think that this fine gentleman would use a weapon. The man is royalty. Does royalty need to stoop that low? The fans are carried away with hate."

Captain Lou Albano: "Baron Mikel Scicluna never has used a weapon. I should know as I've managed him in the past. He knows more about wrestling than most wrestlers could ever learn."

Well so much for the friends of Baron Mikel Scicluna.

Now for the other side of the fence, various wrestlers who have faced Scicluna. Here is their opinion:

Chief Jay Strongbow: "I wish I had a $10 bill for everytime I've been hurt by that taped weapon. I would have a fat wallet. He uses a weapon pure and simple."

Jose Gonzales: "Amigo, please listen carefully. Scicluna uses a weapon. I should know because I have been hurt by this weapon. I have taken it away from him and showed you reporters this weapon. A picture is worth a thousand words. Just show the picture."

Bobo Brazil: In my career wrest-

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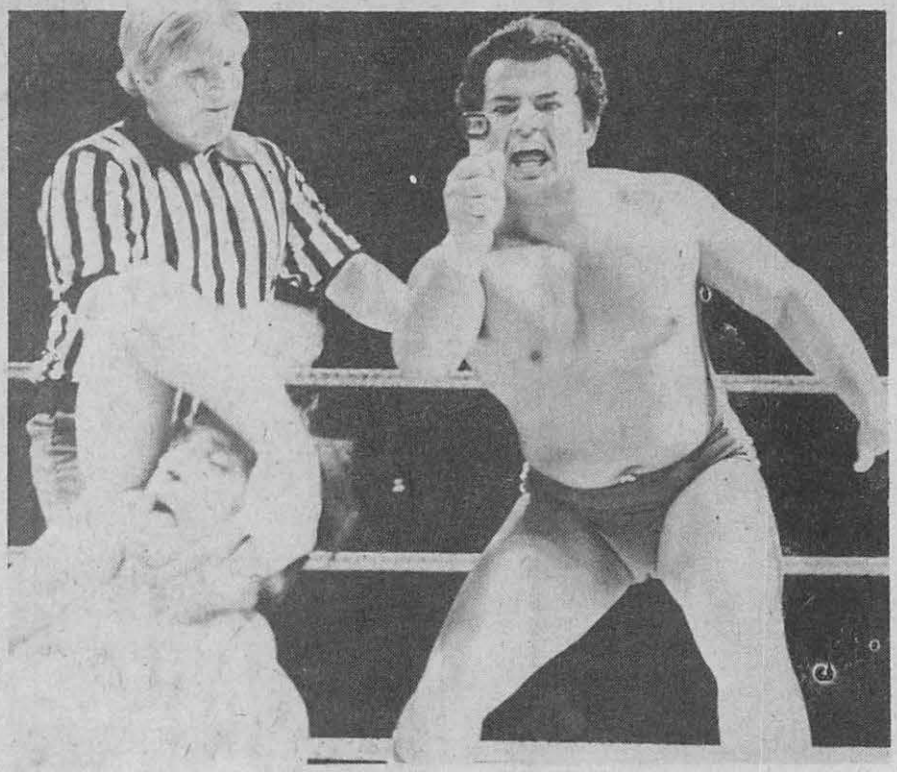


After giving Baron Scicluna a taste of his own medicine, Jose Gonzales holds the weapon up for everyone to see. Proof positive that the Baron is guilty as charged, but Scicluna has an explanation for this.

saw him use it. I felt the pain of it. Yet the referee doesn't find anything. He should be searched head to toe by two referees. I'm sure they would find it."

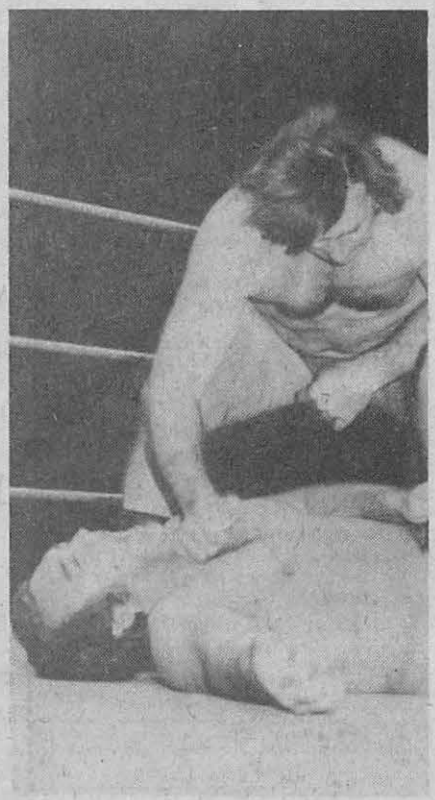
Chief Billy White Wolf: I know Scicluna uses a weapon. In one match with Scicluna he used this weapon on me until I couldn't breath. This man is dangerous."

The questions could be asked all day and the astounding answers could be pro or con depending on who does the telling. Needless to say this reporter hates to take sides, but I've witnessed Baron Mikel Scicluna take a taped weapon and use it on one opponent after another.

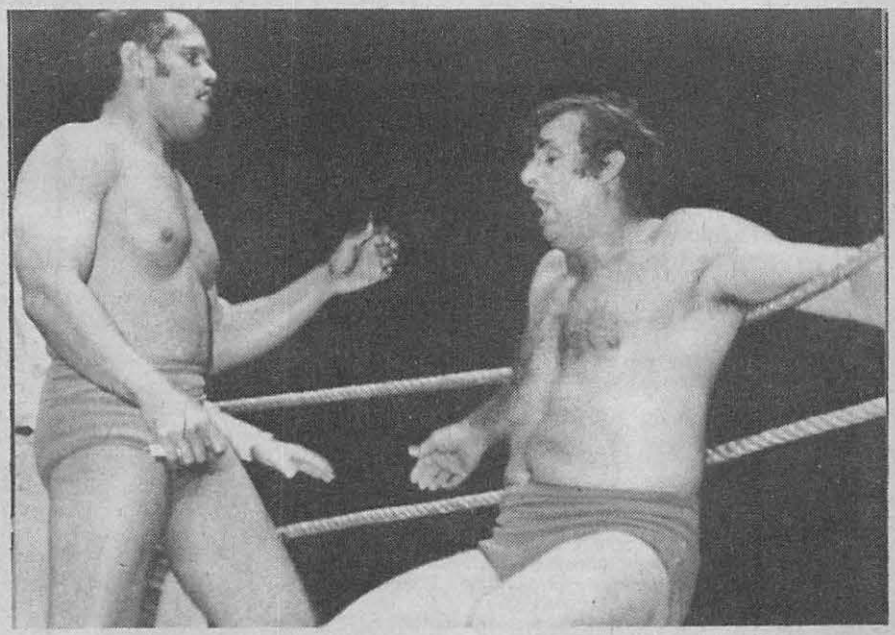
Baron Scicluna is very adept at hiding this weapon. As a reporter I can't divulge to the referee as to the whereabouts of this weapon, I must remain impartial.

Why does Baron Scicluna use a weapon? He is most knowledgeable in wrestling. He is top ranked no matter where he wrestles. He has held many territorial titles. He has wrestled the very best in wrestling. Does he need a weapon? Very doubtful. So why does he do it?

This reporter brought these interviews to Scicluna, he listened to the tapes then answered, "My friends are the only ones who spoke the truth. Why should they lie? They know me. I try to follow the rules but some-



If a picture is worth 1,000 words, then Baron Scicluna can't claim he doesn't use a weapon. Here Chief Billy White Wolf howls in pain as Scicluna drives the weapon into his throat.



The roles are reversed here as Baron Scicluna is hung up on the ropes and Victor Rivera is about to take advantage of the situation by using the weapon on the Baron.

lers have used a weapon on me. This Scicluna you never turn your back on. He has used a weapon on me many times. This man uses a weapon like another hold."

Bob Backlund: "When I wrestled this Scicluna I couldn't believe how he gets away with using a weapon. I

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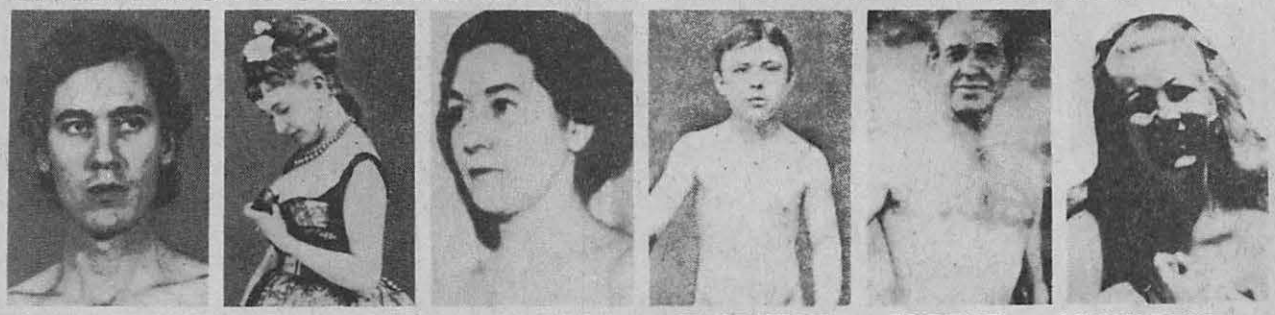

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- **Who was the most famous female sadist?**

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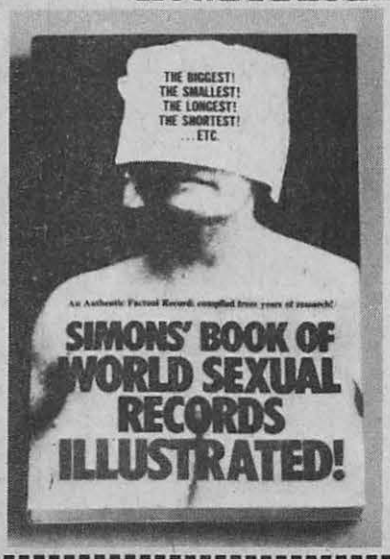

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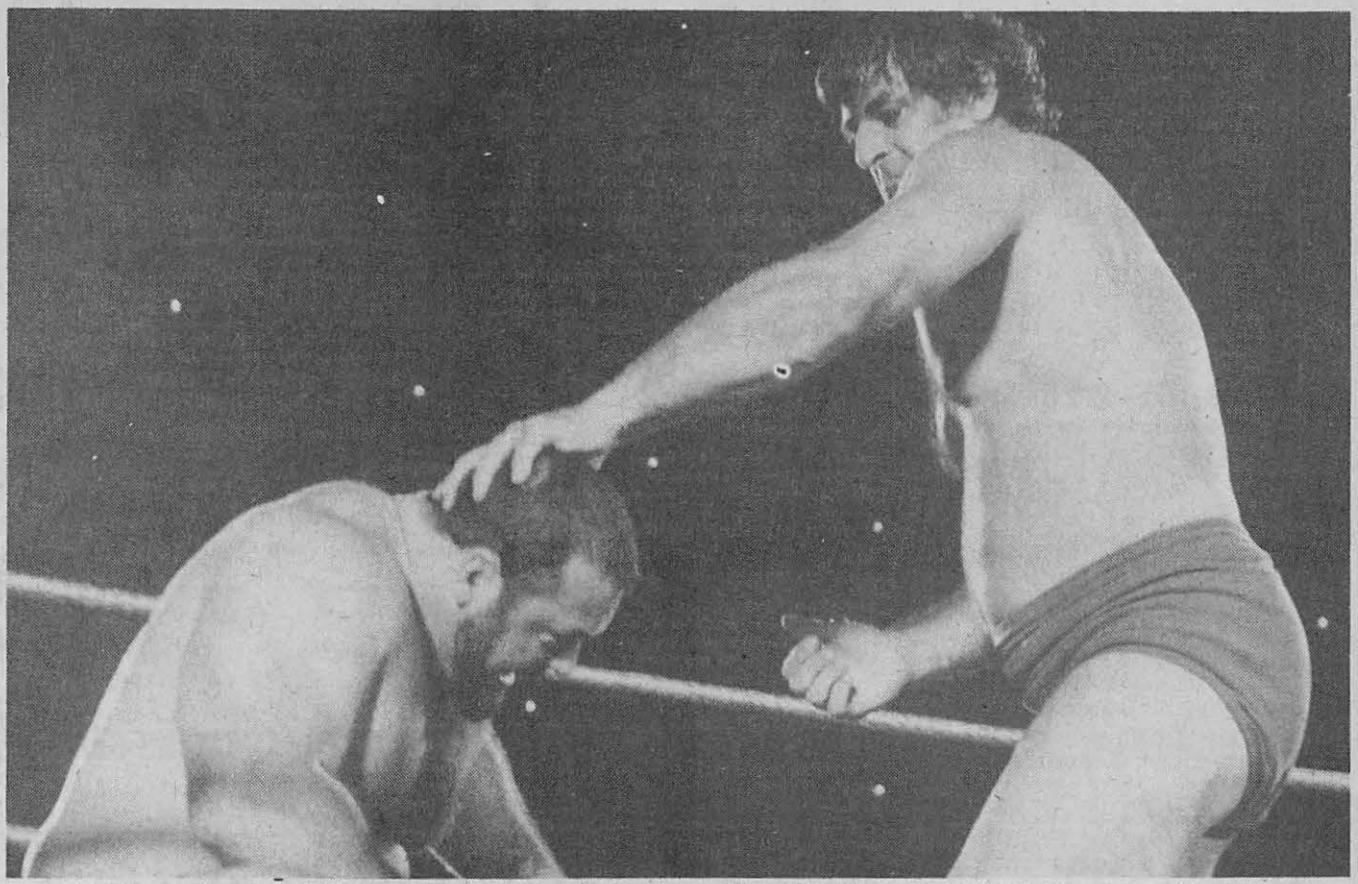
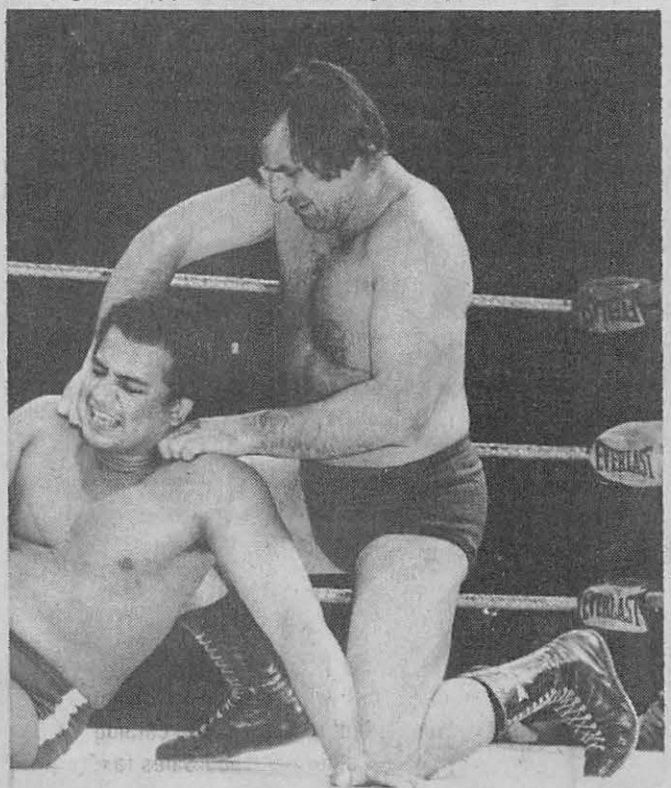
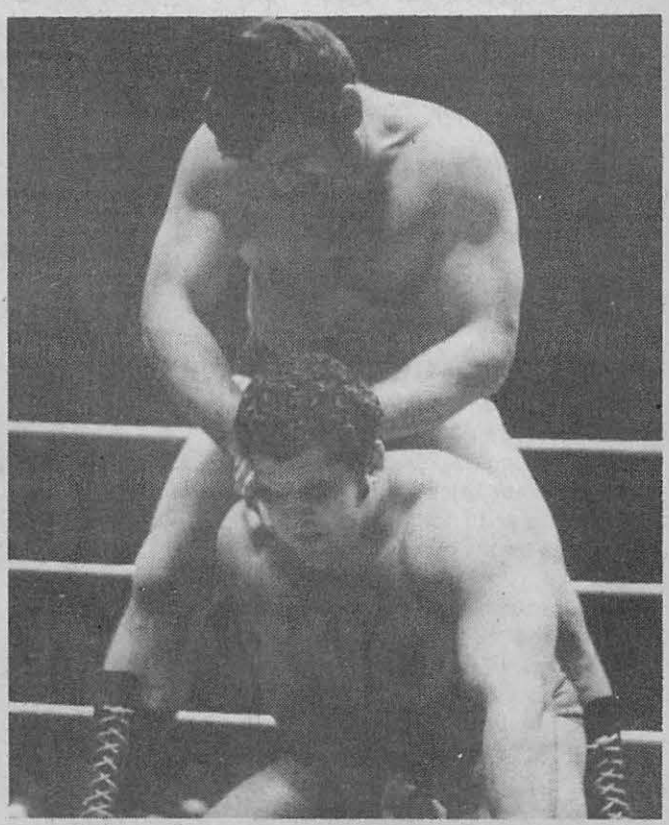


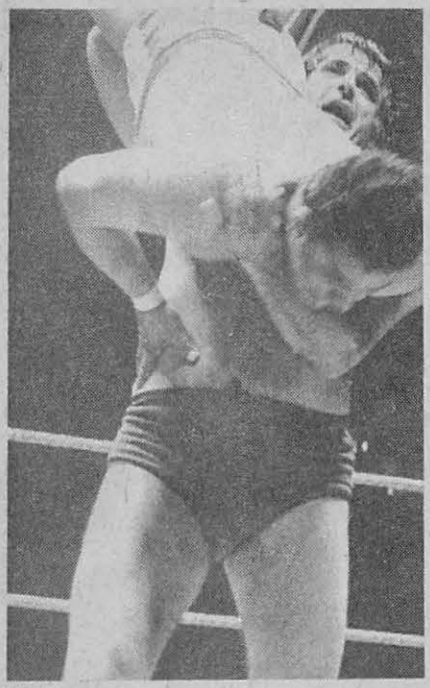
Baron Scicluna gets set to deliver a right to the head of a stunned Ivan Putski. Is that right fist empty, or has Scicluna got his fingers wrapped around his illegal weapon?



Baron Scicluna drops to one knee as he goes to work on Jose Gonzales with one of his dreaded nerve holds which usually cause the opponent to concede the bout.



Baron Mikel Scicluna doesn't have to resort to foul deeds to win his matches as he shows here in using a nerve hold to bring Pedro Morales to his knees.



The strength of Baron Mikel Scicluna is evident here as he's about to slam a helpless opponent to the mat.

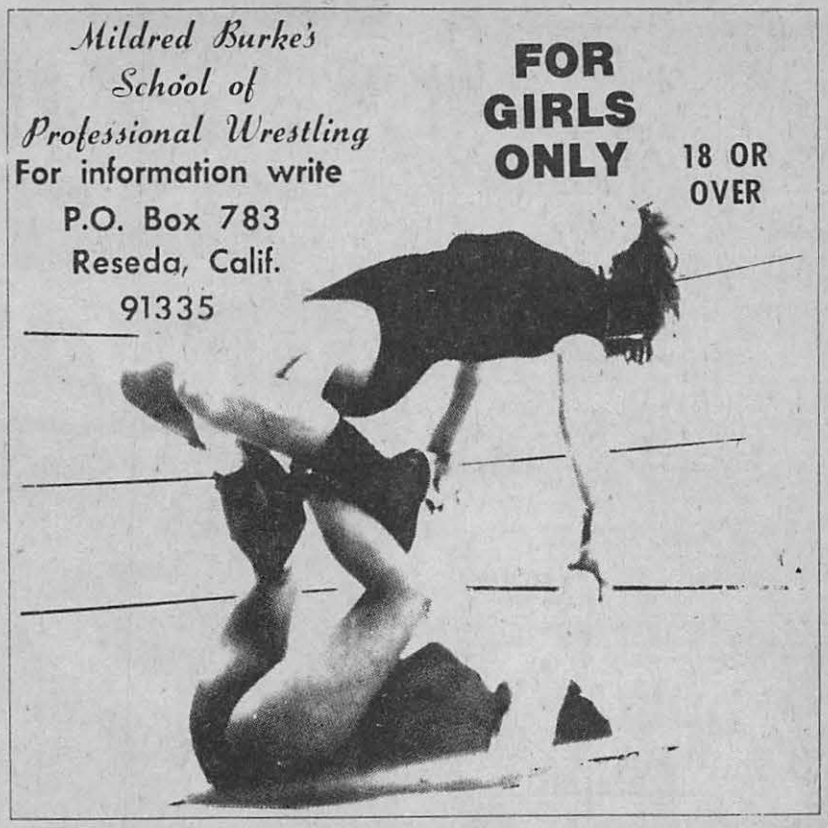
times I admit I get fed up with the illegal tactics of my opponents. I may be rough but I'm not an animal."

Then he answered his enemies, "They are prejudiced against me. I've beaten them with my great wrestling ability. So they make up lies to hurt my reputation. That Strongbow uses those bells he wears on his legs. The referees never chastise him right? The same goes for that yellow coward friend of his White Wolf. They would lie on a Bible to injure me."

So what about photos that show Scicluna in action using this weapon?

Says Scicluna, "What photos do you have? Do you have any showing me taking this weapon out of my trunks? All you have are photos of me using it in self-defense. I told you my opponents bring in this weapon. I just manage to take it away from them. This is no proof, you have no proof. You are taking their side of things. I will not stand here and let you try and destroy my reputation. This interview is ended. I have no more to say. Print what you will but I speak the truth. My friends speak the truth. My enemies lie."

This reporter still doesn't take sides, just report the facts as witnessed. The wrestling fans know the truth, they have seen Baron Mikel Scicluna use a weapon. You decide.



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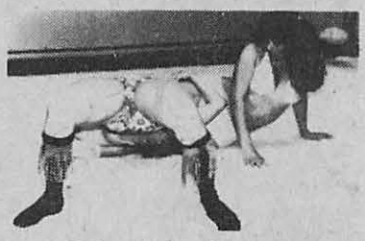

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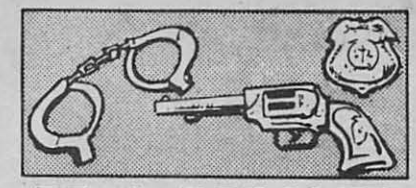

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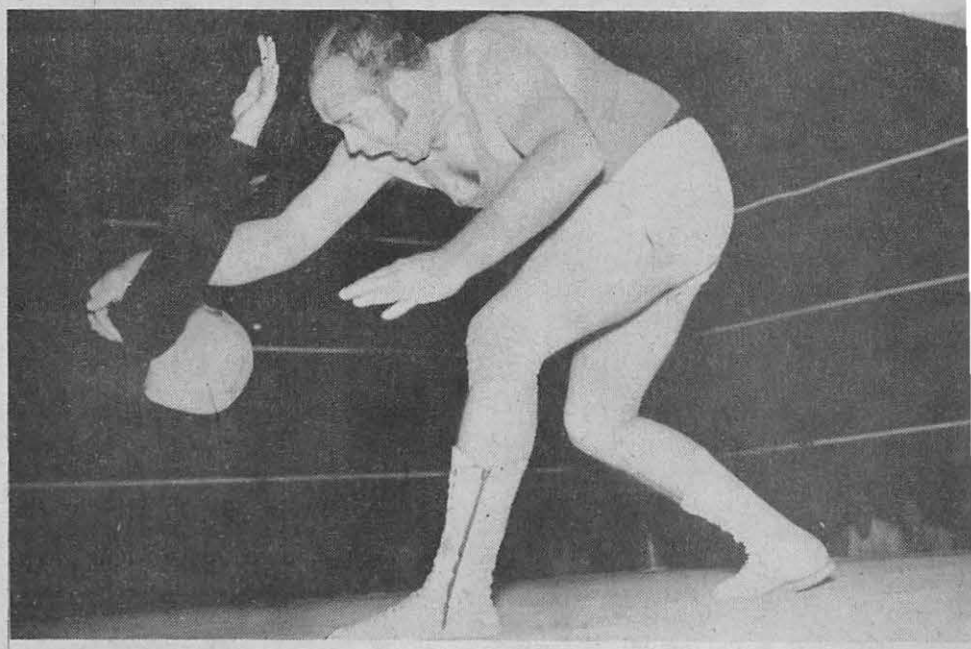
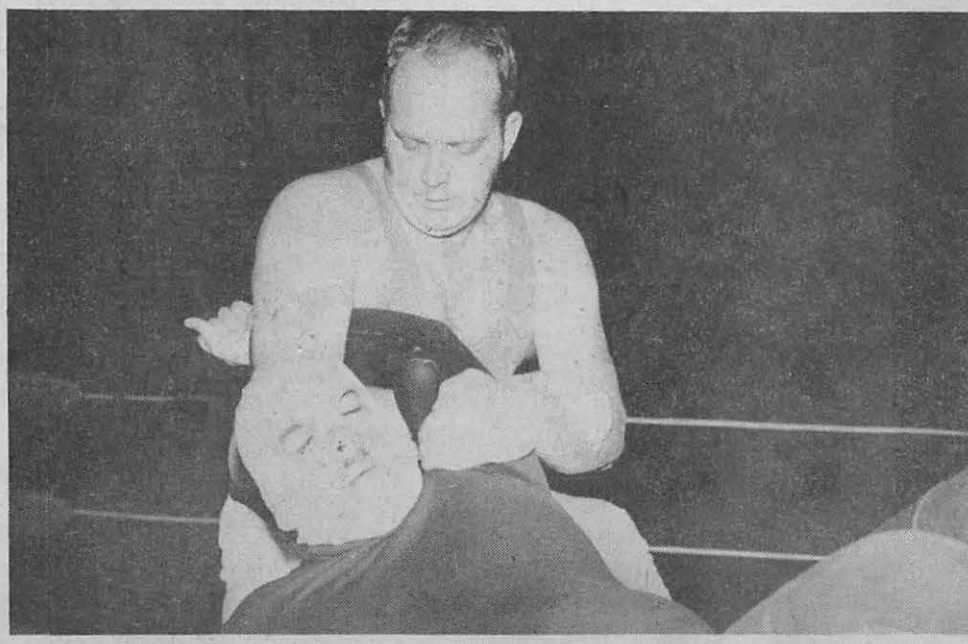
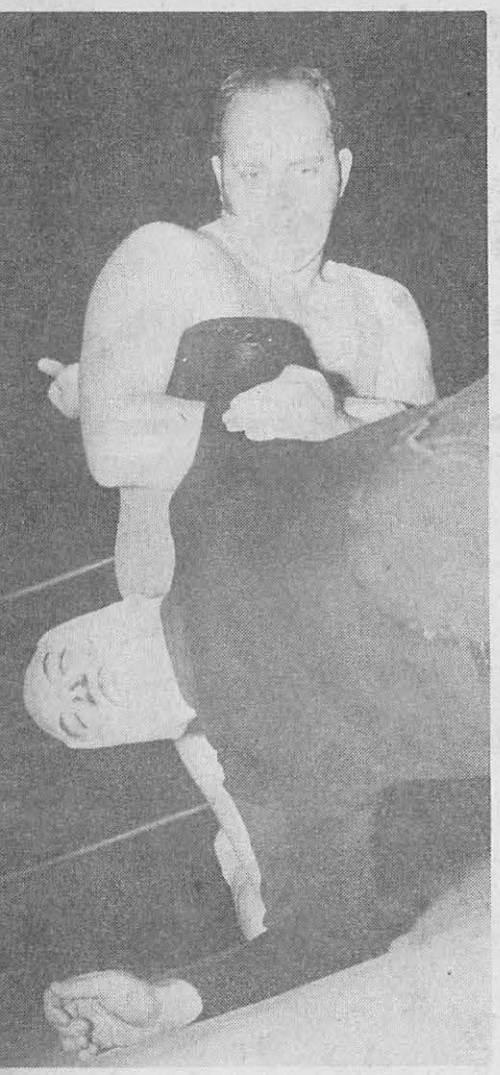
HUNTER BAGS THE GREAT BOLO



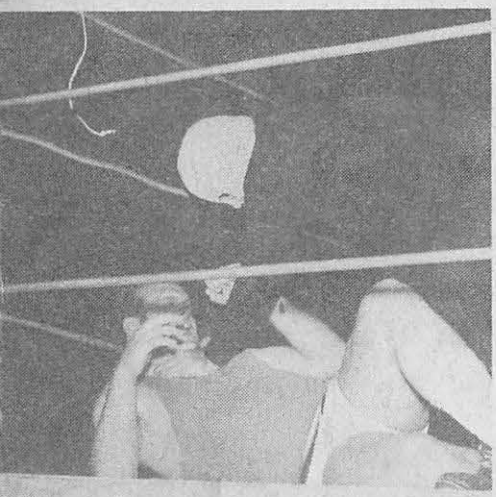
Eastern Wrestling Association champion Johnny Hunter got the bout off to a rousing start as he sent the Great Bolo sailing through the air with a hip toss.



Hunter holds the upper hand here as he has the Great Bolo in an arm bar.



Returning to the ring, the Great Bolo finds himself caught in another arm hold which gives him a few seconds to clear his head.



The tide takes a turn for the worst, at least as far as Johnny Hunter is concerned, as the Great Bolo proceeds to try and choke the life out of him.

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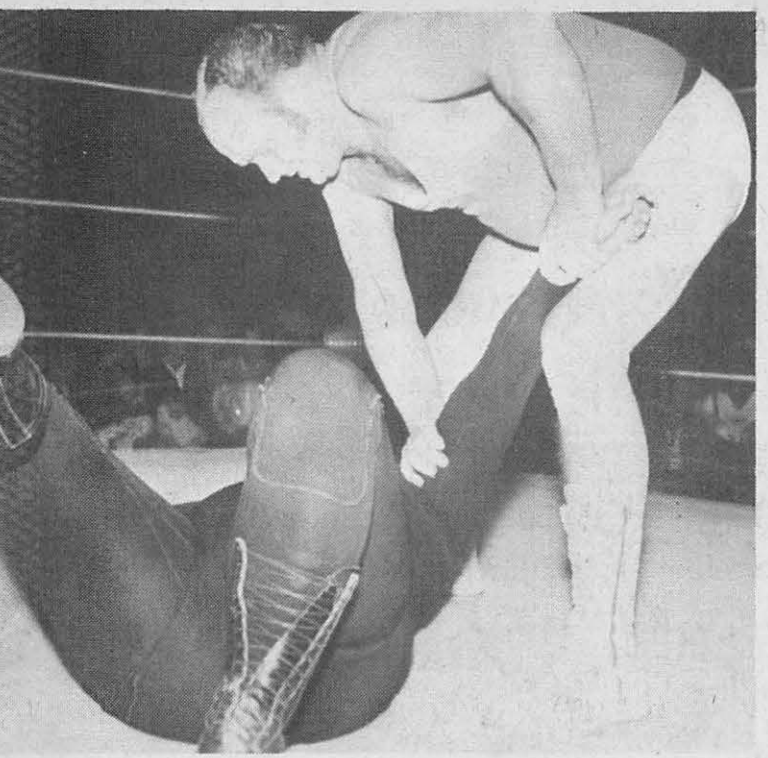
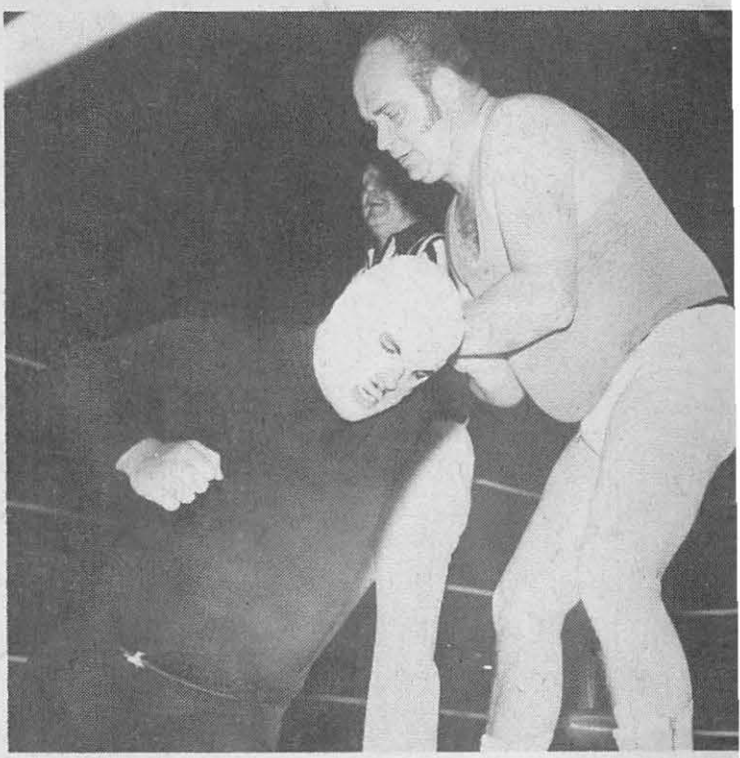
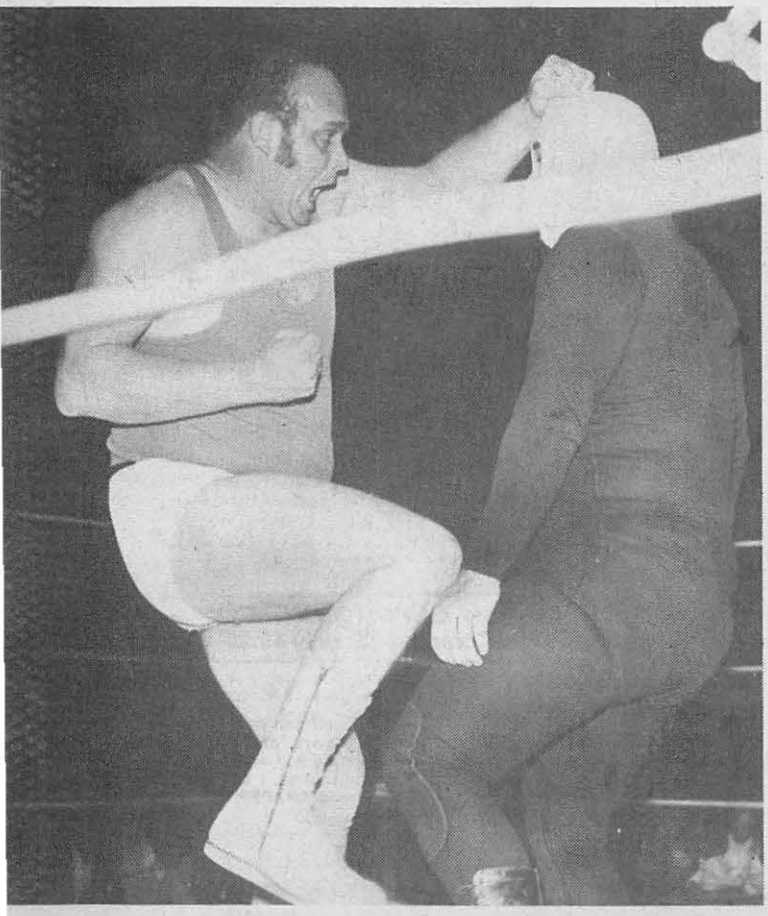
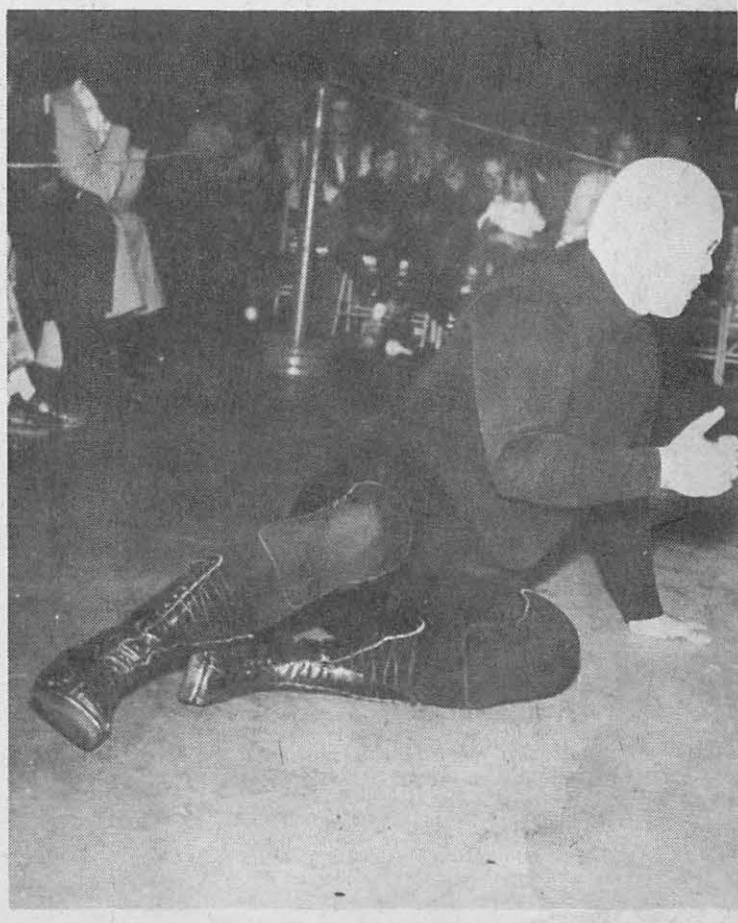


Showing his amazing recuperative powers, Hunter soon had the masked man back on the mat as he goes to work on a straight arm bar.



The Great Bolo fights his way back to his feet and prepares to deliver a punch to the midsection of Johnny Hunter as referee John Martin is in no position to be thrown.





Stung by The Great Bolo's blow, Johnny Hunter gets his dander up and the fists start flying with Hunter grasping Bolo's mask as he gets set to score with a right to the head in the photo on left. After the smoke of battle had cleared, the Great Bolo found himself lying on the floor outside the ring, wondering what had hit him.

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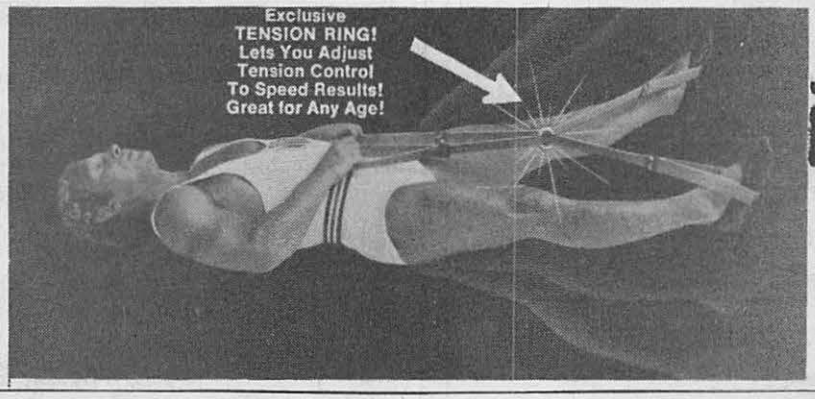

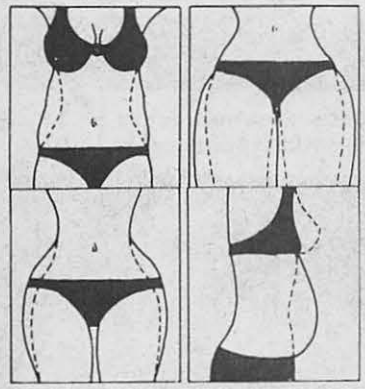

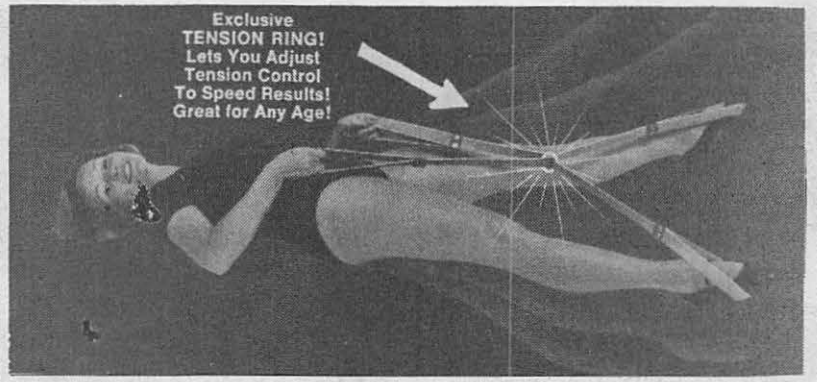

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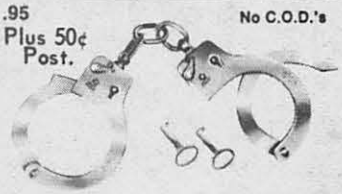

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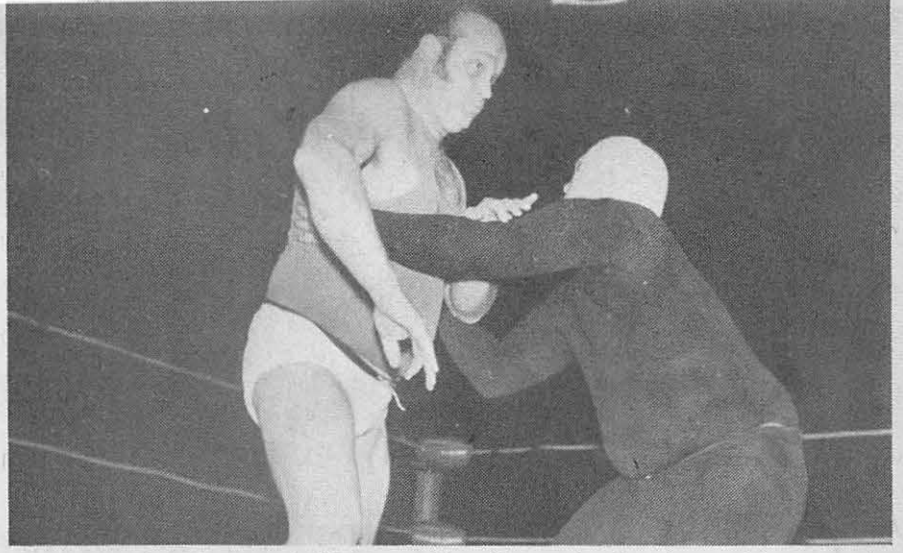
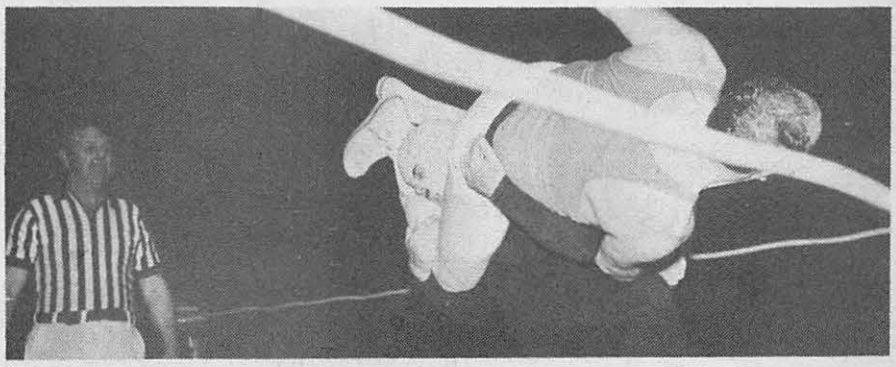
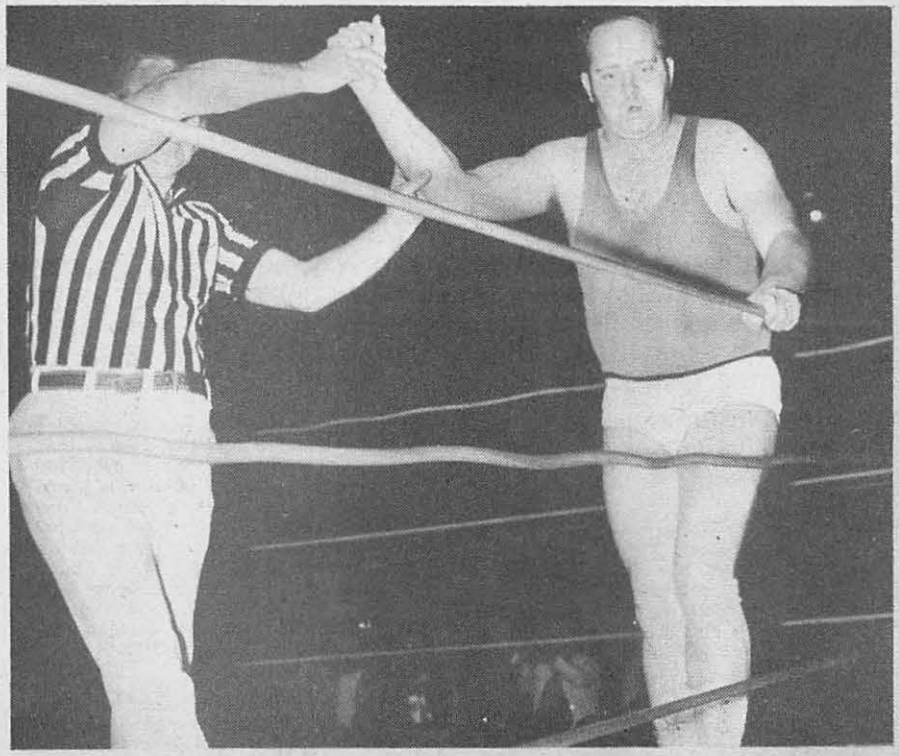


After escaping the arm hold by catching Hunter in the chops with a roundhouse right, the Great Bolo tries to follow up his advantage by tossing Hunter across the ring.



Rebounding off the ropes, Johnny Hunter goes high in the air to catch the Great Bolo in a flying head scissors as referee John Martin looks on.



After flipping the masked man to the canvas, Hunter applied the pin and referee John Martin is about to raise the arm of the winner and still Eastern Wrestling Association champion, Johnny Hunter.

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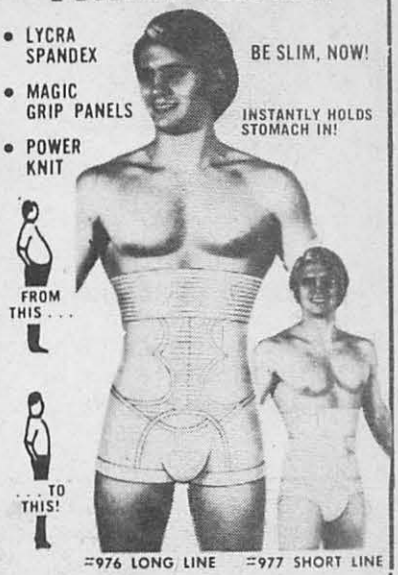

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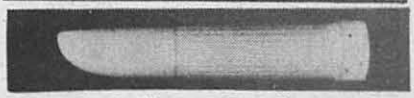

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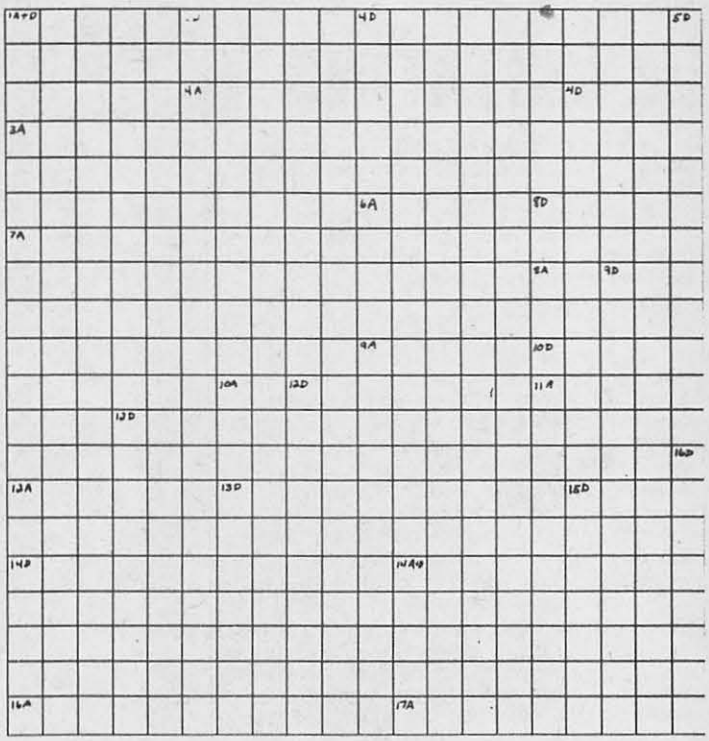

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12. Siberian strongman, --------- Volkoff
13. Japanese wrestling star Tor ---------
14. From New Zealand, held World Wide Wrestling Federation tag-team belt with Calhoun and Ho, Tony --------
15. Ox Baker and Stan Stasiak both use the Heart ---------
16. Red-haired wrestler, Flying --------- Bastien
17. Defeated Jack Brisco for National Wrestling Alliance championship, but was beaten by Harley Race (2 words)

DOWN

1. The Mormon giant who is very popular in British Columbia wrestling circles.
2. Verne Gagne's son
3. English wrestling star, Billy ---------
4. Female wrestler from Texas (2 words)
5. Cowboy Tex ---------
6. The main ---------
7. --------- Brazil
8. Irish --------- Barrett
9. Cowboy Bob ---------
10. Hold used by 1 Down and Stan Stasiak (2 words)
11. America Wrestling Association champion, Nick ---------
12. Eats live goldfish ----------Mayne
13. Billy Red Cloud, Billy White Wolf and Jay Strongbow are all ---------
14. Ox ---------
15. Recent World Wide Wrestling Federation champion, -------Sammartino
16. Famous for ability to throw fire (2 words)

SOLUTION ON PAGE 64

AT LAST! THE BRUCE LEE EXPLOSIVE POWER PACKAGE THAT WILL TURN YOU INTO A DEVASTATING KUNG-FU TIME BOMB

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6. Chief Jay Strongbow
7. Larry Zbysko
8. Tony Garea
9. George Steele
10. Carlos Rocha

AWA

Champion – Nick Bockwinkle

1. Verne Gagne
2. Ray Stevens
3. Greg Gagne
4. Jim Brunzell
5. Crusher
6. Angelo Mosca
7. Pedro Morales
8. Super Destroyer
9. Larry Hennig
10. Peter Maivia

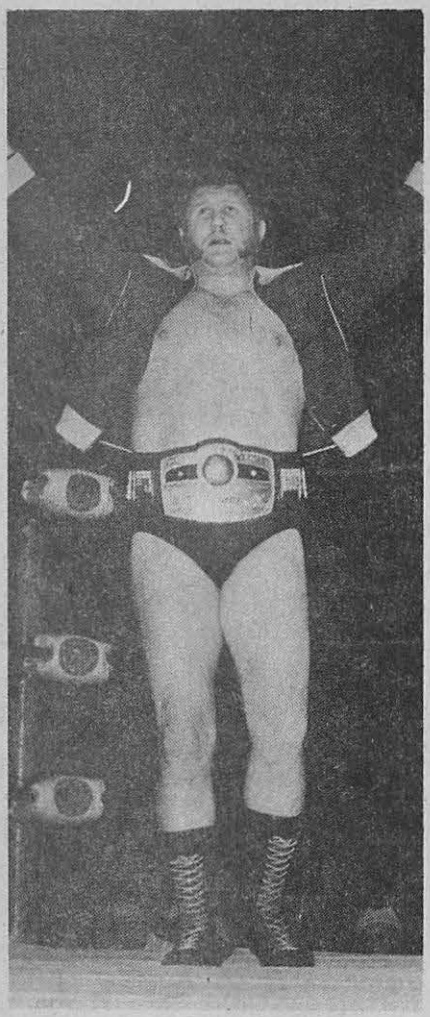
NWA

Champion – Harley Race

1. Dusty Rhodes
2. Terry Funk
3. Jack Brisco
4. Dory Funk Jr.
5. Paul Jones
6. Blackjack Mulligan
7. Wahoo McDaniel
8. The Sheik
9. Mr. Wrestling II
10. Dick Slater

BRUNO SAMMARTINO

Nick Bockwinkle shows why he is the AWA champion as he has Billy Francis on the ropes.



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7. Jim and Johnny Valiant
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR
The explosive nature of this material prohibits us from using the name of this nationally famous author here. However, we can say this: "He has written articles in numerous magazines. He has been on T.V. many times including the David Frost, David Susskind, Merv Griffin and Johnny Carson shows. He is one of the most popular speakers on the college campuses and has been interviewed by Life, Look, Time, etc."

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A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

REMEMBER 'CARNATION' LOU DARO?

By Jess Hernandez

LOS ANGELES – For the past 50 years the Olympic Auditorium on 18th and Grand Ave. In Los Angeles has reigned as the mecca of wrestling on the West Coast and the renowned impresario who pioneered the grunt and groan sport during the formative years was the late "Carnation" Lou Daro.

New York-born Lou Daro took over the promotional reins at the Olympic Auditorium in 1927 and in the late '20s and '30s paraded the greatest assemblage of gladiators in the world.

Daro's impeccable weekly shows featured the golden voice of the late Dan Tobey whose vocal trademark became, "Yes, we have wrestling every Wednesday night!"

Perhaps Lou Daro's most memorable promotional ventures were his outdoor mat spectacles which paired Jimmy Londos against Strangler Lewis and Ed Don George versus Gus Sonnenberg.

"Carnation" Lou Daro was a showman and promotional genius who handpicked the world's greatest matmen and in 1935 staged his famous and historical international wrestling tournament which included foreign imports like George Galza of Italy,

The boyish-looking wrestler on the right is still active but only veteran followers of the grappling game will recognize Vern Gagne, who is shown receiving the National Wrestling Alliance light-heavyweight championship from retiring champion Leroy McGurk, who was blinded in an automobile accident. Others in the photo (left to right) are wrestler Bob Clay, referee Jack Gott and Sam Muchnick, NWA president. McGurk was a Lou Daro discovery and was the world's best 175-pounder until his unfortunate accident.

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And — equally as important —

By deliberately strengthening those "forgotten muscles" that are used only in the act of love, and therefore grow almost useless in the average man after he leaves his twenties! And taking those hidden "support" muscles, and building in a few minutes every day such rock-hard strength into them that you will achieve at last complete mastery of your own virility . . . **shown most dramatically in your new-found ability to maintain "staying power" for "unbelievably" long periods of time!**

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Read how one young man went through his first twenty-some years thinking continually that he was "born to be" a "sexual cripple". And then read how — only a few short months later — one of his girl friends said in a research-interview: **"Once a woman has been with a man like Eric, all other men seem second-rate"!**

Read of the 70-plus year-old man who now keeps **several** girl friends busy . . . **including one 23-year-old beauty who is perfectly willing to admit to anyone that THIS man is (to use her own words) "terrific" in bed!**

And then go on to duplicate these men's transformations with your own! And build a massive virility into your own body with ingenious "training devices" like these . . .

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How to thaw out the lady who wears a "psychological chastity belt"! Snap her out of her "sexual shock" for perhaps the first time in her adult life! **Turn her on completely, so she'll do with you what she'd never think of doing with anyone else!**

How to spot the **highly-sexed** woman, before you even begin talking to her! (No, she is NOT promiscuous! She **saves** her abandon for special man. But, once you convince her, this way, that **you're** that man, **then get ready for the greatest night of your life . . . for openers!)**

How to let a woman know, without offending her in any way, that you will thrill her in bed, **within five minutes after you meet her.**

How to prepare a woman for **unbridled** love! (For example, on page 234 you will find a new method of **kissing** that may actually send her into spasms of ecstasy **before** you lay a finger on her body! **And wait till you read the pages after that!)**

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Kimon Kudo from Japan, Vincent Lopez of Mexico and the United States champion, the late Jimmy Londos.

The Olympic Auditorium ushered in boxing in 1925 but in the heyday of the '30s it was wrestling which lured the capacity throngs of 10,500.

Some of Daro's most spectacular outdoor shows were staged in the early '30s in Wrigley Field, where in the summer of 1930, Gus Billygoat Sonnenberg butted Colorado idol Everett Marshall into submission to retain his world's championship.

In 1931, Daro matched champion Ed Don George with Strangler Lewis and Lewis won the world's title only to be defeated by Canada's Henri Deglande.

Between the years 1935 to 1938, the Olympic Auditorium showcased the herculean talents of 'Jumping' Joe Savoldi, Chief Little Wolf, Rudy and Earnie Dusek, Mike Mazurki, Bronko Nagurski, "Hangman" Cantonwine, George Zaharias, Dave Levin, Count Billy Varga, Tony Morelli, Jules Strongbow, Dean Detton, Lou Thesz, Joe Varga, Ed Don George, Jimmy Londos, Sandor Szabo and Hans Steinke.

Probably one of Daro's most glittering gold nuggets and sensational imports was Mexico's Vincent Lopez whose thundering elbow smashes won him the 1935 international tournament over arch-rival Man Mountain Dean. Lopez became the popular favorite of thousands of Mexican fans who jammed the gallery every Wednesday night.

In 1936, Daro matched Lopez against Dave Levin at Gilmore Stadium, and, in 1937, Lopez was pitted against champion Bronko Nagurski.

Another of Lou's heralded outdoor shows occurred in 1937 when Nagurski won the world's crown from Dean Detton.

By the year 1938, poor health forced Daro to turn over the promotional reins to assistant George Zaharias.

The untimely death of "Carnation" Lou Daro in the late 1940s left the grappling game quite a legacy as he was instrumental in pioneering championship wrestling in Los Angeles with an international flavor. He was the magical ringmaster whose imaginative innovations in staging international tournaments were the forerunner of today's battle royal contests.

Daro established Los Angeles as the wrestling capital of the world and this year of 1977 marks the 50th anniversary, since he launched his dynamic promotional career at the famous corner of 18th and Grand Ave. Much of the spontaneous success and tumult and shouting of today's rambunctious wrestling fans at the Olympic are attributed to Daro.

Today, in celebration of the Olympic's 50th year since the launching of the initial mat show in 1927, let's remember and honor the great "Carnation" Lou Daro, the man who made wrestling a big-time sport on the West Coast!

Salient and historical milestones in the career of Lou Daro:

1927 — Lou took over the promotional reins and contributed his rare collection of memorabilia which includes giant oil portraits of Jimmy Londos, Hans Steinke, Jim Browning, Everett Marshall, Ray Steele, Vincent Lopez and Sandor Szabo.

1930 — Daro stages his famous world championship match in Wrigley Field, in which Gus Sonnenberg defeated Evrett Marshall.

1931 — Daro matches Strangler Lewis with Ed Don George at Olympic Auditorium and record throng of 10,500 watches Lewis regains title in three falls.

1935 — Opening of international wrestling tournament which attracted matmen like Gino Garibaldi, Vic Holbrook, Sammy Stein, Ted Christy, Chris Zaharias, Man Mountain Dean, Ray Steele and Dick Shikat. In the final match of the tournament, Vincent Lopez was acclaimed world champion with a three-fall win over Man Mountain Dean.

1936 — 20,000 spectators watch Dave Levin pin Vincent Lopez in Gilmore Stadium.

1938 — Lou Daro retires from wrestling due to poor health.

1940's — Death claims wrestling promoter Lou Daro.

The villainous Italian matman Tony Morelli, who was a big gate attraction at the Olympic Auditorium during the promotional reign of 'Carnation' Lou Daro.

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VICKI WILLIAMS WINS AWARD

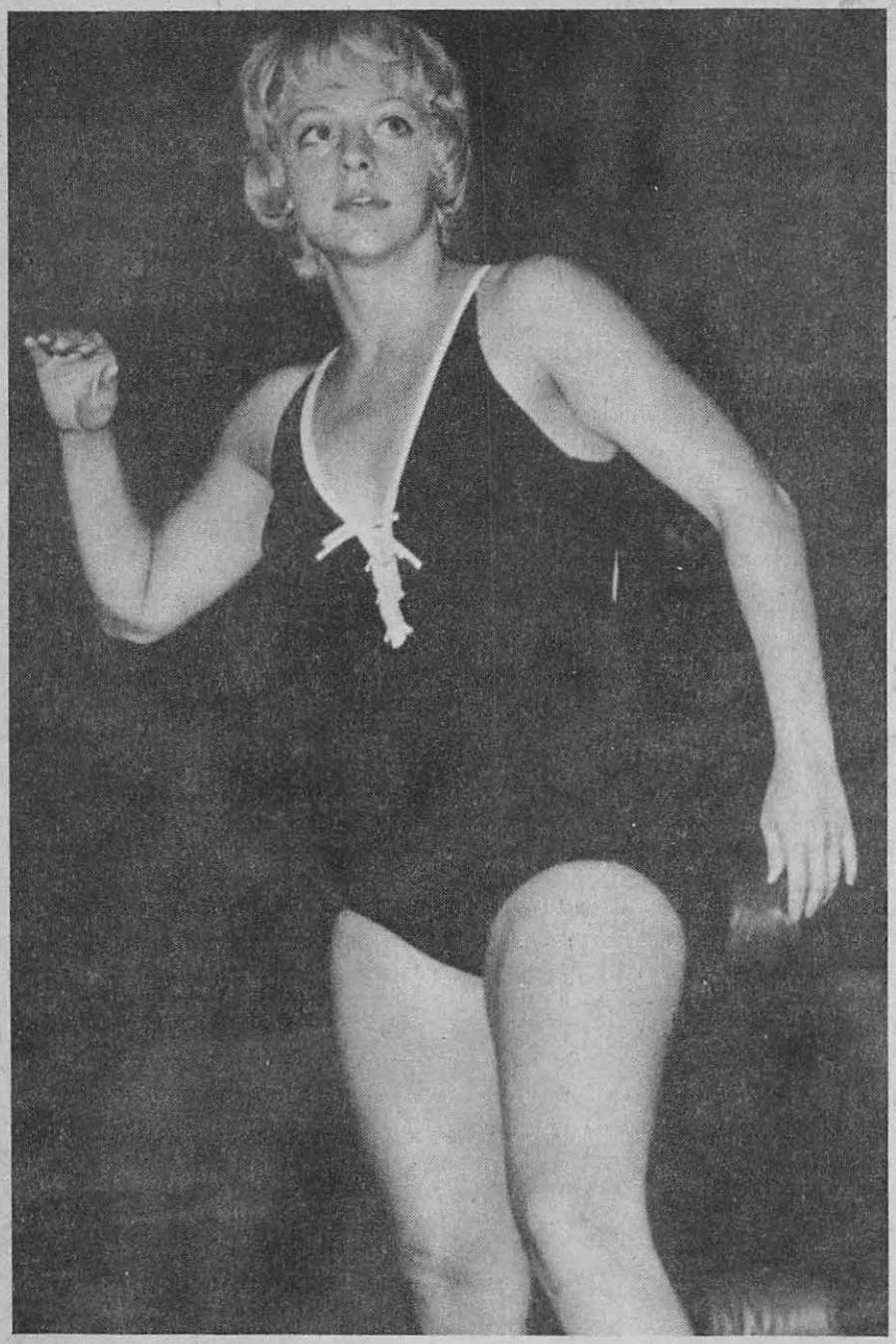
The undisputed queen of women's wrestling is the Fabulous Moolah. However, there's a blonde bombshell ready, willing and able to bring Moolah's fabulous reign to an end. Her name is Vicki Williams.

Moolah herself admitted recently that the top contender for her championship is the bare-footed blonde from Savannah, Ga. Vicki's list of victims reads like a 'Who's Who of Women's Wrestling' as she has fought her way to the top rung of challengers for the world championship.

Leilani Kai, Sandy Parker, Sylvia Hackney, Kay Noble and Jean Antone have all been beaten by Miss Vicki during her recent run of success in

(Photos by Gene Gordon)

Professional wrestling is a give-and-take proposition and Vicki Williams has shown she can absorb punishment, such as this arm hold being applied by Vivian St. John, and bounce back to dish it out with the best of the gal grapplers.



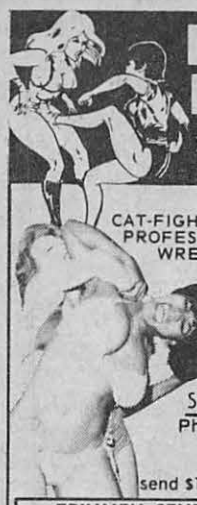
Vivacious Vicki Williams is ready for another night of mat mayhem as she awaits the opening bell.

Midwest mat circles.

The victory over Antone was an extremely important one for Vicki as both girls were being given serious consideration for The Squared Circle's lady wrestler award. However, Vicki's victory with a dropkick and cradle hold impressed the voters enough to give her the nod over the fiesty Antone.

Miss Williams was presented with her plaque recently, by Gene Gordon, staff photographer for Big Book of Wrestling and its sister publications Wrestling Monthly and Wrestling Revue.

Although she has won many awards during her professional wrestling career, Vicki's burning ambition is to unseat Moolah from her throne, and many observers feel that this could be the year that the explosive blonde bombshell realizes her lifelong dream.



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FABULOUS FYRA FITCH

By Michel Bezy

Morocco was scoured and explored, from Tangier to Agadir, from the white Casablanca to Marrakech, the whole of the Atlas mountains were thoroughly combed. In short, the whole country was searched from top to bottom, all the ancient imperial cities, from sierra to sierra, from plain to plain, nothing was missed in order to discover the very beautiful Fyra.

She is here, beside me, and I have to acknowledge that she does not leave one indifferent and that her fabulous presence makes any normal man daydream.

Fyra is 23 years old, 5-foot-6 tall and weighs 114 pounds. Her aggressive and sometimes violent nature quite naturally led to her discovering women's wrestling and at the present time, she is the best woman wrestler in Morocco, much better than Aîda Morocco who is touring the Nordic countries.

Fyra, like all the girls of her country, is adept at oriental dancing, and some of the cabarets in Casablanca have been able to appreciate her wild and frenzied rhythm.

Since her arrival in France, she has become No. 1 among the famous fighting females and her wins are incredible, more than 45 victories in less than three months. That's an eloquent honors list and Fyra, through my intermediary, defies all the other women wrestlers who wish to pit themselves against her.

She gives in with great difficulty, fighting rather than wrestling. She makes one think of the famous Amazon women, her natural ill temper and innate violence give her a sovereign and imperial bearing.

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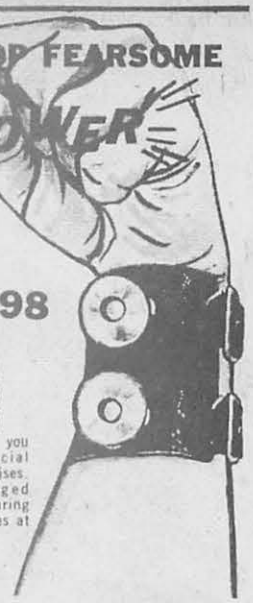

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It is true that she is uncontested queen of the young women wrestlers. Her future is great and I am sure that the Americans will not be indifferent to the mysterious charms of the alluring Fyra.

She crisscrosses France in a very handsome Matra, always accompanied by her faithful "Lulu", who is an Alsatian dog who makes sure her over-fervent admirers keep their distance.

There is nothing of the wrestler about her. She makes one think rather of a fashion model, distinguished, well-bred. She is, it is certain, the heart-throb of the spectators.

I feel that wrestling is only a stepping-stone for Fyra and that one of these days a producer will snap her up for the seventh art, and that we will all be able to appreciate her on the silver screen. It is well to recall that the former Miss Israel, Aliza Gur, is now a great star in the films of Terence Young, which permits us to admire her impeccable figure in films in which she shows her talents as a woman wrestler.

I hope my friend Fyra will become a true star, and that her talent which is immense, will shine throughout the world.

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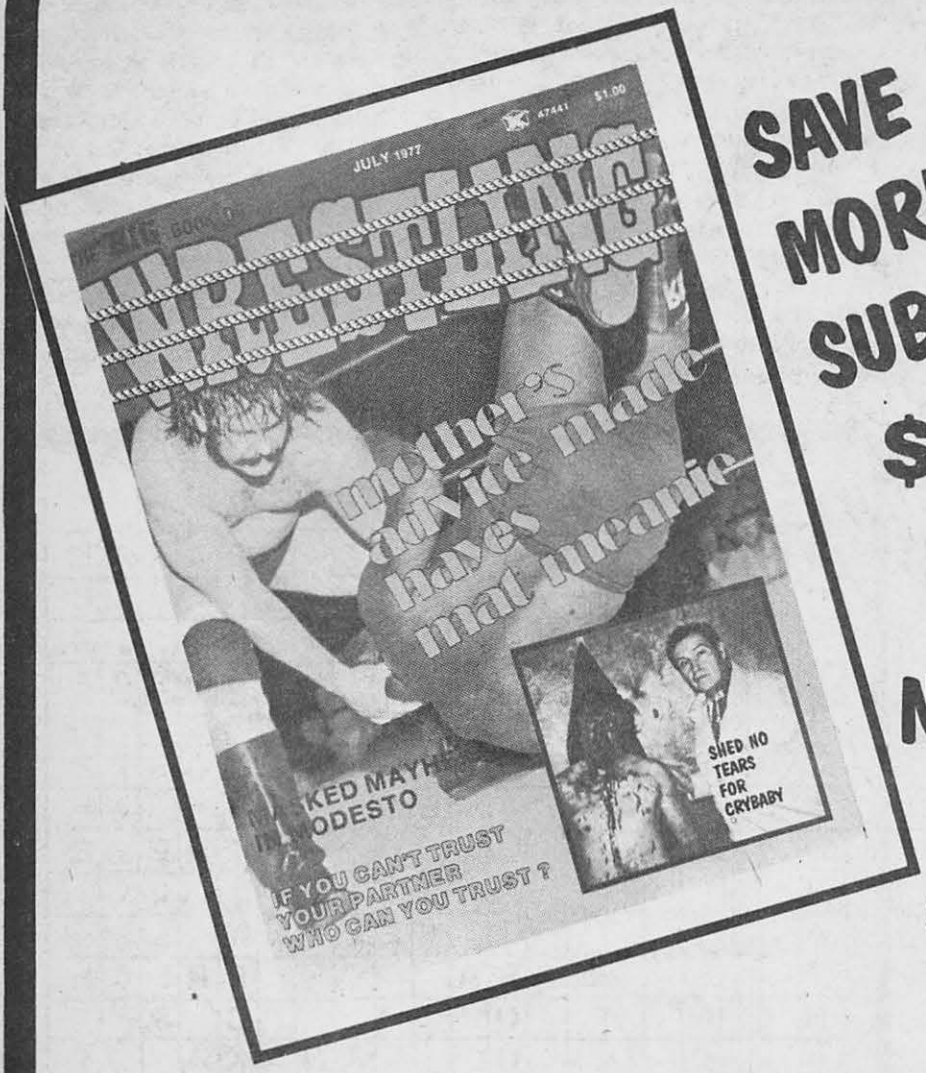

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a true story by John B. Haikey

Starting with borrowed money, in just eight years I gained financial security, sold out at a profit and retired.

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"To pyramid this investment into retirement in less than ten years seems like magic, but in my opinion any man in good health who has the same ambition and drive that motivated me, could achieve such a goal. Let me give you a little history.

"I finished high school at the age of 18 and got a job as a shipping clerk. My next job was butchering at a plant that processed boneless beef. Couldn't see much future there. Next, I got a job as a Greyhound Bus Driver. The money was good. The work was pleasant, but I couldn't see it as leading to retirement. Finally I took the plunge and went into business for myself.

"I managed to raise enough money with my savings to invest in a combination motel, restaurant, grocery, and service station. It didn't take long to get my eyes opened. In order to keep that business going my wife and I worked from dawn to dusk, 20 hours a day, seven days a week. Putting in all those hours didn't match my idea of independence and it gave me no time for my favorite sport—golf! Finally we both agreed that I should look for something else.

"I found it. Not right away. I investigated a lot of businesses offered as franchises. I felt that I wanted the guidance of an experienced company—wanted to have the benefit of the plans that had brought success to others, plus the benefit of running my own business under an established name that had national recognition.

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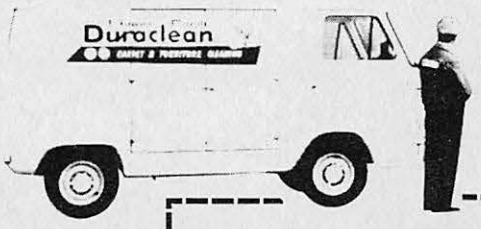

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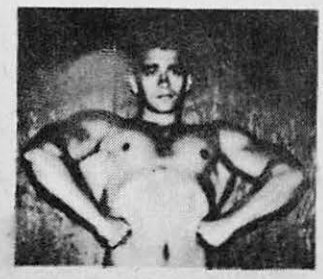

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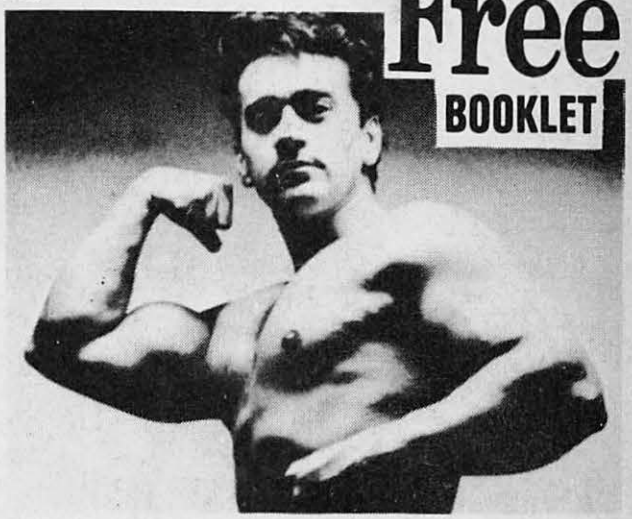

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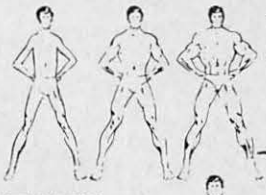

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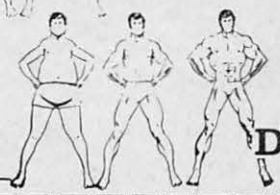

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